

## Companion Animal Identification

### Position:

The Edmonton Humane Society supports and encourages the use of identification such as microchips, tags, and tattoos in companion animals. Permanent identification (microchips and tattoos) should be applied in a humane manner by a veterinarian or under veterinary supervision.

### Summary

- Identification poses minimal risk to companion animals and increases the likelihood of reunification should an animal become lost.
- Information on all forms of identification should be checked for accuracy regularly and updated whenever necessary.

### Rationale

- Identification such as microchips, tags, and tattoos increase the likelihood of lost companion animals returning to owners. The use of multiple forms of identification is recommended.
- Microchips are strongly recommended as they are not prone to fading or being physically separated from an animal.
- Owners should ensure their pet's microchip is most effective by having current contact information registered and including a scan during veterinary visits to confirm the microchip's location and that it is functional.
- Identification promotes reunification of lost animals. In a study by Lord it was found that when stray animals brought to a shelter were microchipped pets and owners were reunited approximately 73% of the time.
- Identification is beneficial to all animals, as even animals who are primarily indoor pets may escape by accident.
- The likelihood of an adverse reaction to microchip implantation is low.

### References

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3. Humane Canada. "Pet Identification" Humane Canada Position Statements, n.d.
4. British Small Animal Veterinary Association "Pet identification" BSAVA Position Statements, n.d.
5. Lord, Linda K et al. "Search and identification methods that owners use to find a lost cat." *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* vol. 230,2 (2007): 217-20. doi:10.2460/javma.230.2.217
6. Weiss, Emily et al. "Frequency of Lost Dogs and Cats in the United States and the Methods Used to Locate Them." *Animals : an open access journal from MDPI* vol. 2,2 301-15. 13 Jun. 2012, doi:10.3390/ani2020301

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