

PET IDENTIFICATION SAVES LIVES!

No one expects their pet to get lost. Even when you take precautions, accidents can happen - gardeners leave gates open, natural disasters separate pets from their owners, and resourceful pets can often find a way out of even the most secure house or yard. Providing your pet with proper identification is the most important precaution you can take to maximize your chances of being reunited with a lost pet.

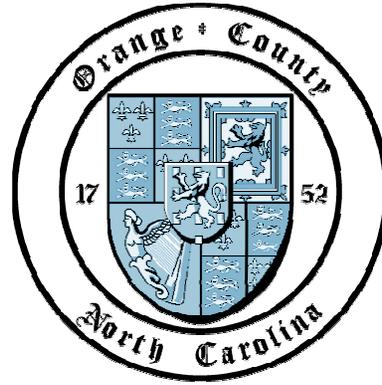
Some form of identification for your pet is vital. Of the millions of dogs and cats euthanized in shelters around the country, an estimated 30 percent of them are lost pets whose owners cannot be found. Most shelters only hold "stray" animals for a short time – typically from 3-5 days. (*Orange County Animal Services holds stray animals for 5 days during which the Animal Services center is open at least 3 days.*) Without identification, unclaimed pets are inevitably euthanized unless adopted.



Identification has evolved over the years, from collar tags to tattoos and, more recently, implanted microchips. All are available at a reasonable cost.



But which is best?



Orange County Animal Services

1601 Eubanks Rd
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

Phone: 919-942-PETS (7387)

Fax: 919-918-2393

www.OrangeCountyNC.gov/animalservices



www.facebook.com/OCASpets

PET IDENTIFICATION



ORANGE COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES

REMEMBER, IDENTIFICATION IS YOUR PET'S TICKET HOME!

MICROCHIPS

Microchipping offers pet owners the only truly permanent method of identifying a pet and linking the animal back to the owner. Collar tags can break or become unreadable and tattooing can become illegible. So, if you want to improve your pet's chances of getting home fast and safe in case it were to go missing, microchipping is your best option.

- **Only true permanent method of pet ID**
- **Best chance of your pet returning to you after going missing**
- **Quick and painless procedure, similar to vaccination**
- **Lasts for the lifetime of your pet**

Microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and are implanted just beneath the surface of the skin between the shoulder blades. The process is similar to receiving vaccination through a needle. Most animals don't even react when the microchip is implanted. Once implanted the microchip remains between the shoulder blades just beneath the skin for the rest of the animal's lifetime.

It is critical to keep your contact information up to date with the microchip registry so you can be contacted when your lost pet is found.



TAGS

These are a must.

Tags immediately tell others including shelter workers that a pet has a home and a family who miss him or her.

Tags should have up-to-date contact information i.e. street address and phone number of the owner.

The tags should be attached to your pet's collar. Unfortunately, collars can be lost or (if the pet is stolen) taken off, so you'll want to have a backup method of identification. If you don't like ID tags, you can get collars that come with a plate to engrave your information.

Pet ID tags are available at most pet supply stores, and can also be purchased through a number of online vendors.



TAGS + MICROCHIP= THE WAY TO GO!

It is important that all pets have both permanent and visible forms of ID.

Lost pets often lose their collar and ID tag/license and can only be identified by their microchip. Conversely, since microchips are embedded under the skin, ID tags and licenses serve as physical proof of ownership, alerting someone who has found your pet that he or she has an owner.

Multiple forms of ID drastically increase the likelihood that you will be reunited with your lost pet.

