

PET IDENTIFICATION

CAC COMMUNITY EDUCATION • PET PARENT SERIES

Microchip Your Pet

A microchip provides permanent identification, but it is not a GPS tracker. Have your veterinary team scan it periodically, and make sure ownership information is transferred if you adopt an already-microchipped pet.

Register It & Keep It Current

A microchip is only useful if your contact information is accurate. Confirm registration, update changes promptly, add an alternate contact when possible, and keep the chip number with your pet's records.

Don't Know the Registry?

Your veterinary team can scan your pet for the microchip number. The AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool can help identify the associated registry.

Use Visible ID Too

Microchips should complement, not replace, a properly fitted collar and readable ID tag with a current phone number. For cats, consider an appropriate breakaway or safety collar.

Keep Rabies & License Tags Current

Rabies tags and dog-license tags may provide another way to trace a lost pet back to its owner. Keep vaccinations, licenses, tags, and associated contact information current.



REMEMBER: USE MORE THAN ONE LAYER OF IDENTIFICATION

Collars and tags provide immediate contact information but can be lost. Microchips provide permanent identification but must be scanned. Using both gives your pet multiple ways to find their way home.

Professional references: American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), Animal Identification and Microchipping; AAHA Universal Pet Microchip Lookup Tool; American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Microchipping of Animals; Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, Dog Licenses; Pennsylvania Dog Law §202–203; Pennsylvania Rabies Prevention and Control regulations, 7 Pa. Code §16.44.

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