



Canadian Federation of Humane Societies
Fédération des sociétés canadiennes d'assistance aux animaux

9. Pet Identification

Position Statement:

CFHS supports the proper identification of all companion animals with visible methods such as licenses or tags, as well as permanent identification such as microchips or humanely applied tattoos. CFHS supports microchipping as the preferred method of permanent identification.

Background:

Lack of proper identification prevents the majority of companion animals from being reunited with their owners. Identification of companion animals is a necessary requirement for the successful return of lost companion animals. The CFHS recommends that the implantation of microchips only be carried out by veterinarians or qualified persons knowledgeable regarding the procedure and this system of identification. The CFHS supports ISO technology for microchips as established by the National Companion Animal Coalition.

http://cfhs.ca/info/companion_animals#inner_link_one

IDENTIFICATION AND LICENSING

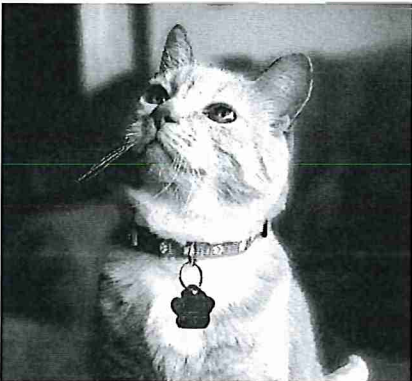


Photo courtesy of Merial

RESOURCES

Merial Get Me Home Program
Cathealthy.ca/getmehome

In 2010, the Canadian national average of lost cat return-to-owner rate was 3.8%. Visual and permanent identification greatly increase the likelihood that a lost cat will be reunited with its owner.

- The benefits of combining permanent identification (microchip and/or tattoo) with visible identification (break-away collar and tag) should be discussed at all preventive healthcare examinations for all cats, even those that live strictly indoors.
- The CVMA supports the permanent identification of animals and recommends a microchip using the International Standards Organization (ISO) microchip technology.
- Microchip implantation is minimally invasive and is well tolerated without the need for sedation. It can be done during any appointment or with routine surgical or dental procedures.
- The permanent identification number (microchip or tattoo) needs to be recorded in the medical record.
- Scan the cat at each visit to make sure the microchip has not migrated and is still functional. At the same time, confirm that the owner has kept the contact information current and complete.
- The use of collars and name tags is extremely valuable but underused. Contrary to popular belief most cats can reliably wear collars safely and comfortably.
- If vaccinated for rabies, provide a rabies tag for the cat's collar along with the vaccination certificate.
- Encourage owners to include up-to-date photographs and other identification information in the microchip database.

It is important that the veterinary team understand the need to support responsible cat ownership municipal by-laws and municipal cat licensing in their community. Municipalities such as Calgary have increased the cat return-to-owner rate to 50-56% by creating and enforcing responsible pet ownership by-laws and by licensing cats. The licensing municipality now holds a separate database of this permanent ID information. As owner information is generally updated annually (at time of license renewal) the licensing program maintains a relatively current database which shelters and veterinary clinics can use to help identify lost cats.

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES COMPLETE GUIDE TO CAT CARE

WENDY CHRISTENSEN

Registering your cat's microchip ID with the registry is crucial!
Many shelters now routinely microchip adopted cats. Because of this high-tech innovation, many cats who would have been euthanized have instead gone safely home.

CAT LICENSING

Efforts are underway in many localities to enact legislation requiring registration and licensing of cats. Many cities and counties have required cat licensing for decades. Other areas are pursuing educational and voluntary-compliance approaches. Partly because mandatory licensing of cats is a new concept for some cat owners, and partly because many people still believe so many of the cat myths we demolished in chapter 3, there's a great deal of resistance to the idea. The Humane Society of the United States promotes licensing all cats, under a strategy called differential licensing—charging significantly more for a license for unsterilized cats than for spayed and neutered cats.

Cat Licensing Programs in Municipalities

City	Cat Licensing Program	Fees		Subsidized Spay- Neuter Program or Vet Clinic	Adoption Program	Pet Owner Education Program	Is there a Local SPCA or Humane Society
		Spayed/Neutered	Intact				
Hamilton	Registration	13	13	X	X	X	✓
Toronto	✓	15	50	✓	✓	✓	✓
Brampton	✓	10	10	✓	✓	✓	X
London	✓	20	45	✓	✓	✓	✓
Markham	✓	31	49	✓	✓	✓	✓
Winnipeg	✓	15	50	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mississauga	✓	20	45	X	✓	✓	✓
Ottawa	✓	20	40	✓	✓	✓	✓
Calgary	✓	17	35	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edmonton	✓	21	76	✓	✓	X	✓