

# ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE of BOSTON



*Helping animals since 1899.*

## Pet Identification for When the Unexpected Happens

One of the worst feelings in the world is knowing that your beloved pet is lost somewhere, possibly injured or scared, not knowing how to get back home. While we do not plan for our pets to get lost, accidents can happen. It is important to take precautions in case your pet does get lost, no matter how unlikely it may seem.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, out of the 6-8 million pets entering shelters each year, only 30% of dogs and 2-5% of cats are reclaimed by their owners. Many of the animals entering the shelter have no form of identification at all, and people often report lost pets that do not have many identifying features.

Cats and dogs should wear collars with ID tags attached at all times. Tags should include up-to-date contact information. Dogs are also required by law to wear their city licenses and current rabies tags. Cat collars should be elastic or break-away in case they get caught on something. Even indoor cats should wear their ID in case they accidentally get outside.

All cats and dogs have the option of being microchipped. Microchipping is permanent and uniquely identifies your pet. It is important to keep your contact information updated with the microchip company and the veterinarian or shelter that implanted the chip; identification is useless if the owner cannot be contacted. **All adopted dogs and cats from the Animal Rescue League of Boston are microchipped prior to adoption.** If you are interested in having other pets microchipped, please ask your veterinarian.

If your lost pet enters a shelter the microchip can be scanned and you will be contacted, but a microchip is not visible without a scanner so if a Good Samaritan happens to find your pet a collar with ID is equally as important as the microchip. When both forms of identification are used, a lost pet is much more likely to make it back home.

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The Animal Rescue League of Boston is dedicated to rescuing domesticated animals and wildlife from suffering, cruelty, abandonment and neglect. We do not receive government funding. We rely solely on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. Help us help more animals today at [arlboston.org](http://arlboston.org)!

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