



Permanent Identification of Companion Animals

Position:

Identification of dogs and cats is essential for the successful return of lost or stray animals. Each year, many families are devastated by the loss of their pet, and each year many animals suffer when they either stray or are stolen from their families.

Calgary Humane Society supports:

- Proper licensing and identification of companion animals.
- The use of collars and tags that provide fast visual recognition.
- The use of multiple means of identification that together enhance the possibility of the animal's safe return should it get lost: microchip, tattooing, municipal license or internet-based forms of permanent ID.

Each ID method has its strengths and weaknesses:

- Microchips require trained personnel and special equipment to detect and read them.
- Tattoos require special expertise to read and trace.
- Licenses require access to the municipal database to trace.
- Internet-based ID systems require access to a computer and the web but beyond that are accessible to anyone anywhere, whether an animal has been lost or found.