

The Importance of Pet Identification

Written by Brenda Schaffer, CVT

We've all seen the posters. Pets get lost for various reasons. Unfortunately, many pets never find their way home because the right person didn't see the right poster. You may be wondering how best to identify your pet in order to make sure he makes it home safely. The bad news is that there is no perfect identification that guarantees to reunite you and your pet. The good news is that there are some great options available to you that have helped millions of pets come home.

The most common form of ID is a tag or plate that attaches to a collar. An ID tag usually displays the pet's name, owner's name, and phone number. This can be as simple or as detailed as you make it. Tags are a great way for people to find you quickly. However, tags-and even whole collars-can be lost while a pet is running loose. Cats especially need to wear break-away collars for their safety. Therefore a tag on a collar should never be relied upon for feline identification.

Pet owners can also be located through the ID number on a rabies tag or city license. However, these tend to be unreliable and are only useful during business hours.

There are more permanent ways to identify your pet. An older method of permanent identification is the tattoo. Tattoos cannot be lost or removed. However, they are not readily available to pet owners and can be difficult to find and/or read when a pet is found.

A newer, and better, form of permanent identification is the microchip. A pet ID microchip is about the size of a grain of rice and is implanted under the skin with a large needle, usually over the shoulders. Each microchip is encoded with a unique ID number. Facilities that take in stray animals are equipped with scanners that will read and display the ID number. When an animal is

brought to a shelter, impound facility, or vet clinic, the animal is electronically scanned. When a chip is found, the chip manufacturer is contacted in order to obtain owner information. A microchip cannot be lost or removed, though it does rely on someone taking the pet to a facility with a scanner during business hours.

In summary, no form of ID is guaranteed to get your pet back home. Any lost pet depends on the kindness of strangers to reunite it with its family. The best way to ensure your pet's safe return is to use a combination of ID systems. Your pet should wear an ID tag at all times with a phone number clearly indicated. It's a good idea to keep a rabies tag on the collar as well to show that the vaccination is up to date. The ID tag is the fastest way for a pet to get back home. However, the most reliable form of ID is the microchip. The microchip ensures that you can be found even if your pet loses her collar while she is missing.

Regardless of the type of identification you choose, it is imperative that you keep your contact information current. When you have a change of name, address, or phone number, remember to update your pet's tag and/or microchip registration.



A microchips size compared to grain of rice

Certifect™

NEW product from the makers of Frontline™

Written by Tami Schwarze, CVT

Certifect™ is a new topical product for flea and tick control in dogs. Certifect™ combines the active ingredients in Frontline Plus™ with a third ingredient to create a new standard in topical tick control. Certifect™ rapidly starts killing ticks in 6 hours and keeps killing for the entire month.

Certifect™ is supplied in a “dual chamber” pipette. One chamber contains the Frontline Plus™ and the other contains a small amount of amitraz to potentiate the tick-killing power of the active ingredients in Frontline Plus™. Certifect™ is applied in much the same way as Frontline Plus™ except it is recommended to apply it in two locations, half between the shoulder blades and the other half at the base of the skull. The reason for the two areas of application is only because of the volume of product being applied.

This product is ideal for hunting dogs or any dogs that spend a lot of time in tall grass and or wooded areas where ticks lie in wait for their next meal. Deer ticks are not the only ticks we worry about transmitting diseases. Many different types of ticks are growing in numbers and moving into new areas. They can introduce infectious diseases that were previously uncommon or not seen in certain areas.

Certifect™ is only available for purchase from your veterinarian. It is available in a 3 pack and may be purchased individually as well. Currently there is a rebate available. When you purchase 3 doses you will receive 5 dollars back by mail and when you purchase 6 doses you will receive 12 dollars back.

Protect your pets from the threat of fleas and ticks. Use Frontline Plus™ (dogs and cats) or Certifect™ (dogs only) once a month.



Featured Pet

Written by Janet Cafferty



"Bandit"

The choice of a new small pet was to be all hers. There had been a varied selection to choose from at the big store. But it was a male, 4 month old, sable colored ferret that became the fancy of the young girl.

"Bandit" was the chosen name for this loved pet that has been a delight through the years for the, now teenager, Shelby, of Waconia.

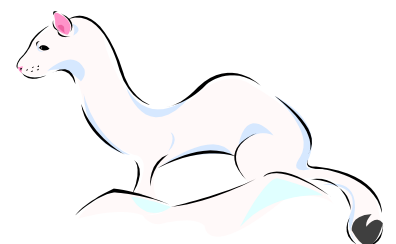
Being Shelby's pet, Bandit's darkened caged environment is situated in her room. When Shelby is at home, Bandit has run of her room and access to her possessions and personal attention. Bandit has a selection of his own toys to play and roll around with. The balls containing jingle bells and most types of cat toys are his favorites. Other things Bandit enjoys are the



contents of Shelby's pencil pouch, or, choice pickings of Shelby's favorite stuffed animals, which are supposed to be off limits for him. If any of these items are not in their designated places, a prime place to locate them again is under Shelby's bed. Frequently a family member will spot Bandit carrying an oversized stuffed animal in his mouth, headed for the underside of Shelby's bed.

Besides being a very sociable pet and wanting to play with your toes, Bandit is full of energy with bouncing around, leaping in the air and making his squeaking sounds. When not demonstrating his feisty temperament, he'll be burrowing under things, or trying to go up the inside of a pant leg, or just being available at your side to be stroked. Bandit likes to sleep in his hammock or in his newest favorite pouch that Shelby made for him. He will sleep through the night and awaken when Shelby does. When Shelby is away for the day, Bandit will take a nap and be well rested to joyfully greet Shelby when she returns.

Shelby made a good choice in Bandit as being a good small companion pet. He is much loved and enjoyed by the family. Being a friend to our clinic over the years, we also have enjoyed his personality and look forward to his next visit.



Did You Know?

- Americans spend around \$3 billion for cat and dog food a year.
- The giraffe has the highest blood pressure of any animal.
- The only dog that doesn't have a pink tongue is the chow.
- A domestic cat can frighten a black bear to climb a tree.
- A rhinoceros' horn is made of the same stuff found in our hair and fingernails which is called keratin.
- A zebra is white with black stripes.

**Dr. Scott Phearman
Dr. Katrina Gustafson**

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- General and Orthopedic Surgery
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- Avian and Exotic Animal Medicine and Surgery
- In-House Pharmacy and Laboratory
 - Canine Reproduction
- Behavior and Dietary Counseling
 - Grooming



Office Hours

Monday 7:00 am – 7:00 pm
Tuesday-Friday 7:00 am – 5:30 pm
Saturday 7:00 am – 12:00 pm

Hours may vary by season.
Please call for an appointment.

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Cash value 1/100 cent Expires 12/15/2011