

Microchips, Tattoos and Collars

Proper identification is the best way to have your pet returned but is of no value unless it can be traced to an owner. Keep your contact information current with your veterinarian, microchip company and on your pet's collar.



Tattoos – Placed in an animal's ear, tattoos are a code that trace to the vet clinic that gave your pet the tattoo. If your pet is missing, call this vet and ensure that your contact info is current and that they are aware your pet is missing. They can alert you if someone tries to change the information or if your pet shows up in their clinic.

Microchips – Microchips are implanted under the skin at the base of the animal's neck and provide a code that traces to a company that will provide the owner's information. Ensure that your microchip company has your current information.

Collars – ID tags can be very helpful in reuniting lost dogs, as any member of the public can call you. Keeping your city's dog licence on the collar can also be an easy way to trace ownership. Cat collars should be break away to ensure they don't get snagged on a branch or debris.



Permanent ID is only useful if the contact info is current. If you move, change your name or phone number always remember to contact your vet and/or microchip company to update the info. Many animals come into shelters with permanent ID that leads to phone numbers no longer in service, or previous owners. If you don't know if your pet's ID is current, ask your vet or local animal shelter to help you find out where the animal's tattoo/microchip is from.

Coquitlam Animal Shelter

500 Mariner Way

Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 7B6

Phone: 604-927-7387

Fax: 604-927-7388

animalshelter@coquitlam.ca

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday, Sunday and Holidays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Shelter is closed to the public on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.



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Tips and tools to help you reunite with your lost pet.



coquitlam.ca/animalshelter

Coquitlam

Local Animal Control

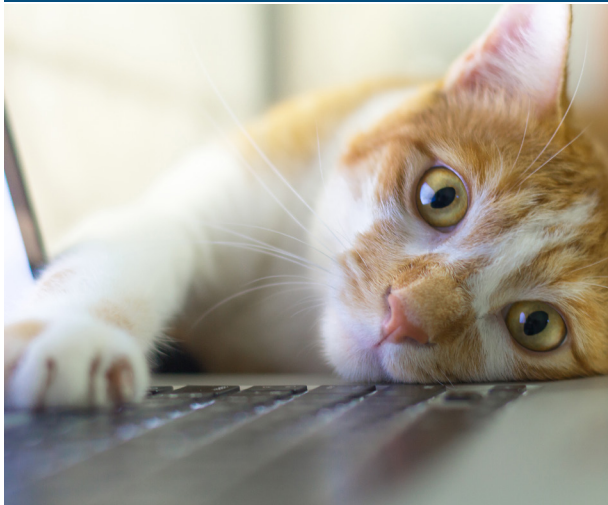
All animal shelters check incoming stray animals for tattoos, microchips and tags in the hope of quickly reuniting lost pets with their family. Having permanent ID that traces to you is the best way to ensure your pet gets home quickly. How long a shelter will hold a stray depends on the facility and can be anywhere from 3 – 7 days, so make sure to contact them immediately. Contact your local Animal Shelters and BCSPCA by phone to report your lost pet. Be as descriptive as possible making sure to list any distinguishing features like scars or unique markings. If possible, email a picture of your pet to help ensure a quick and positive identification.

Go to the shelter and check if your pet is there. Physical descriptions can vary and animals may not be correctly identified by a description alone.

Check back with your local animal shelters regularly.

Most local animal shelters also pick up deceased domestic animals and use the same intake procedures to ensure they are checked for ID so the family can be notified.

Be proactive. Make sure your pet has permanent ID.



Let People Know Your Pet is Lost

The internet and social media can be great tools to use in helping find your lost pet. Using sites, such as Facebook, can help spread the word that your pet is missing, quickly and to a large audience. Post a clear picture of your pet that shows any distinct markings and be sure to include the date missing, area last seen, if the pet has a tattoo or microchip and contact information. Do not post your pet's microchip or tattoo numbers, or your exact address.

The resources listed below are a few of the most frequently used sites. Many neighbourhoods have community pages, so make sure to check those and post frequently.

Craigslist
vancouver.craigslist.org

(make sure to check in both the Lost & Found section, and Pets section)

Petsearchers Canada
petsearcherscanada.com

Missing Pets In BC
facebook.com/MissingPetsInBC

BCSPCA
spca.bc.ca/i-need-help-with/lost-found-animals

BCSPCA Pet Search
bcpetsearch.com

Lost Pets BC
facebook.com/LostPetsBC

ROAM
roambc.org

Paw Boost
pawboost.com

Where to Look

Start your search in your own backyard. Pets can get scared and hide in spaces you may never think to look. Check under patios, porches, vehicles, and in shrubs, up trees or in sheds. Shake a jar of treats or squeak a favorite toy to see if they will appear.

Walk around the neighbourhood, checking with neighbours or delivery drivers to see if they spotted your pet. Stray dogs tend to be noticed quickly and reported to Animal Control, so make sure to call them right away.

Cats can be especially clever at finding unique hiding spots, so ask your neighbours to check their sheds, garages or any boats or RV's that might be parked nearby.

Put up posters in highly visible locations, such as bulletin boards at grocery stores, schools, public buildings and community centres.

Put an item that your pet is familiar with outside in a safe area. A favourite bed, blanket or toy can lure your pet back with their own scent. Do not put food out as it can attract wildlife or scare off your missing pet.

If you live close to the border of your city, check with the neighbouring city's Animal Control as well.

