

# Your Cat Needs an ID Tag!



Animal shelters throughout the country take in millions of lost cats each year, and 99 out of 100 of these cats have no identification. Less than three out of 100 lost cats are ever reclaimed by their owners, and usually one of those three has an identification tag. The owners of the other two cats end up spending hours, days and even weeks looking for their lost cats and personally visiting every animal shelter in their area. Most owners of lost cats search long and hard and never find their cats.

## Collars with ID

Don't risk losing your feline friend forever. Please put a collar on your cat and an identification tag with your name, address and phone number. Be sure to keep the information current. You'll want to tag your cat even if you never let it go outside because there is always the chance that it could slip through an open door or window and become lost.

There are collars made especially for cats with a short piece of elastic sewn in. These "break-away" collars can be buckled snugly around the cat's neck, but will stretch and let the cat escape if it should get hung up on a tree limb or fence. It's important to remember that many more cats have died because they were lost and their owners couldn't find them, than have ever been injured from wearing a collar.

The first time you put a collar on your cat, give it a catnip-filled toy. The toy will distract the cat's attention from the odd feeling of wearing a collar and by the time it finishes shredding the toy, it may have forgotten the collar entirely.

## Microchipping

A microchip is a device that a veterinarian inserts under the skin of your pet. It is about the size of a grain of rice. It has a unique tracking number, which you register along with your contact information. Then, if your pet is found and taken to a shelter or veterinarian, your pet will be scanned, your contact information will come up, you will be contacted and you and your pet will be reunited. Microchipping typically costs \$35-60. If you move, you need to register your new address on the microchipping registry.

