


# ...If Only They Could Leave Behind a Trail of Bread Crumbs...





Tens of thousands of family pets are lost or stolen in the U.S. every year. Follow these tips to help keep your furry friends safe!


## Protecting Your Pet...

**I.D. is the KEY** when it comes to giving your pet the best possible chance of making his way back home, should he become lost.

 On the collar, there should be a rabies tag, city registration tag, and a tag with your contact information. (The more phone numbers you include, the better). **THE COLLAR AND TAGS SHOULD REMAIN ON YOUR PET AT ALL TIMES.** The most common statement regretful pet owners make is that they removed the collar to bathe their dog, or because the tags made noise.


 Most pet supply retailers now sell plastic holders in popular shapes, that fit around I.D. tags. These are inexpensive, great solutions for reducing or eliminating noise made by multiple tags. After a bath, the collar should be put back on your pet before he leaves the bathtub, enclosed area, or grooming facility.


 It is also a good rule of thumb not to attach a leash to the same collar that holds your pet's I.D. tags. Many pet owners have had their animal pull out of a collar on a walk, or after being startled by a noise. The animal darts away in fear and the frantic owner is left holding their pet's only protection at the end of a leash.

 **Microchipping** is life-saving technology that has been in use for years. A microchip is approximately the size of a grain of rice. It is injected, much like a regular vaccination, under the

skin, between the animal's shoulder blades. The process is fast, virtually painless and inexpensive. Microchipping can be done by your vet and at participating city shelters and rescue organizations.




 Once the chip is in place, the owner **COMPLETES AND SUBMITS A REGISTRATION FORM**, either online or by mail, and the primary and secondary contact information for that owner is stored in a database. That vital information can be accessed by microchip scanning wands, which are used at almost every veterinary clinic, city animal shelter and rescue facility across the country. A registered microchip is an important compliment to physical I.D. on every animal's collar. Think of it as another layer of protection for your four-legged family member.

 The most important, and often overlooked aspect of identification on your pet is that **EVERYTHING MUST BE KEPT CURRENT.** If your address or any of your contact information changes, this must be reflected on your pet's tags and microchip database, in order for them to do their job. Additionally, make sure to promptly replace any tags that have become worn and difficult to read.


## Recovering a Lost Pet...

**Time** is of the essence when a pet goes missing. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to be diligent, thorough and consistent in the search process. Never give up hope. Many animals have been reunited with their families after long periods of time and after all efforts have been exhausted.


 Immediately contact your local animal shelter, the SPCA of Texas and animal shelters in surrounding communities. File a lost pet report with each one. For residents of Ft. Worth or the mid-cities, file a report with the Humane Society of North Texas. Visit each shelter, with a photo of your pet, and continue to follow up by phone daily. Email [rescuefriends@verizon.net](mailto:rescuefriends@verizon.net), where your report can be emailed out to numerous rescue organizations in the DFW metroplex.


 If your animal is micro-chipped, contact the microchip company immediately. Call your vet clinic. Post signs around your neighborhood, as well as at area vets, grooming facilities, kennels, and pet supply retailers. Walk your neighborhood, and surrounding neighborhoods, with a photo of your pet. Talk to your neighbors.



 "Lost Pet" ads can be posted in your newspaper and on various sites online, to aid in the search for your pet. Every opportunity to put your message out in the public eye is a good thing.


## Helping a "Found" Pet...

 When you see an animal running loose on the roadside or in your neighborhood, don't be afraid to lend a helping hand. If this were your pet, you would want another kind stranger to do the same. Many times, the involvement of just one caring individual means that a beloved pet will make his way safely back home, instead of being harmed or killed.

 Follow the same points of contact when you have found pet that are listed above for a lost pet. Be sure to keep the found pet's description vague on flyers and in ads. The animal's true owner will be able to provide you with a detailed description and photos of his pet, so that you can be assured the animal is going to his real home.

 If the animal is wearing tags, that will make locating the owners much easier. If not, have the animal scanned at your vet or a local shelter for a microchip.



 If all efforts fail to locate the owner, and if you do not plan to keep the animal, local animal rescue groups can discuss the different placement options available to you, so that you can make an informed decision for the animal, based on your situation and resources.

**American Boston Terrier Rescue**  
972.407.4440; [www.bostonterrierrescue.net](http://www.bostonterrierrescue.net)

**Animal Rescue Klub (ARK)**  
[www.animalrescueklub.org](http://www.animalrescueklub.org); 972.562.HELP

**Animal Rescue of Texas**  
[www.animalrescueoftexas.org](http://www.animalrescueoftexas.org); 214.276.7802

**Camp Wolfgang (German Shepherd Dog Rescue)**  
214.520.7000; [www.campwolfgang.petfinder.com](http://www.campwolfgang.petfinder.com)

**Chihuahua Rescue and Transport, Inc.**  
[www.chihuahua-rescue.org](http://www.chihuahua-rescue.org)

**City Pet Rescue (CPR)**  
[www.citypetrescue.com](http://www.citypetrescue.com)

**Coppell Humane Society**  
[www.coppellhumanesociety.com](http://www.coppellhumanesociety.com); 972.462.1121

**Dachshund Lovers of Texas**  
[www.dachshundloversoftexas.org](http://www.dachshundloversoftexas.org); 214.577.7536

**DFW Cocker Spaniel Rescue**  
[www.dfwcockerrescue.8m.com](http://www.dfwcockerrescue.8m.com); 972.994.1133

**DFW Labrador Retriever Rescue Club**  
972.881.5544; [www.dfwlabrescue.org](http://www.dfwlabrescue.org)

**DFW Sheltie Rescue**  
[www.sheltie.org](http://www.sheltie.org); 972.994.7848

**DFW Tzus And More Rescue**  
[www.dfwtzusandmorerescue.com](http://www.dfwtzusandmorerescue.com); 888.290.3335

**East Lake Pet Orphanage**  
214.349.ELPO (3576); [www.elpo.org](http://www.elpo.org)

**Frisco Humane Society**  
[www.friscohumanesociety.org](http://www.friscohumanesociety.org); 972.498.8980

**Great Dane Angel Network Rescue**  
817.361.9855; [www.daneangelnetwork.org](http://www.daneangelnetwork.org)

**Humane Animal Rescue Team (HART)**  
[www.hartoftexas.org](http://www.hartoftexas.org); 214.332.9535

**Humane Society of Flower Mound**  
[www.fmhs.org](http://www.fmhs.org); 972.691.7387

**Protective Animal League (PAL)**  
[www.onepetatatime.org](http://www.onepetatatime.org); 972.881.1981

**Rescue Friends Coalition**  
[www.rescuefriends.info](http://www.rescuefriends.info); [rescuefriends@verizon.net](mailto:rescuefriends@verizon.net)

**Richardson Humane Society**  
[www.richardsonhumanesociety.org](http://www.richardsonhumanesociety.org); 972.234.5117

**SADIE Foundation**  
[www.sadie.petfinder.com](http://www.sadie.petfinder.com); [k9kids1@verizon.net](mailto:k9kids1@verizon.net)

**Save The Animals Rescue Society (STARS)**  
[www.starspets.com](http://www.starspets.com); 972.459.9181

**Saving Pyrs In Need (SPIN)**  
[www.SPINrescue.org](http://www.SPINrescue.org); 972.681.8585

**Scottie Kingdom Rescue, Inc.**  
[www.scottiekingdom.com](http://www.scottiekingdom.com)

**Tassie's Hope Animal Rescue**  
[www.tassieshope.org](http://www.tassieshope.org); 214.550.2648

**Texas Animal Shelter Coalition**  
817.392.3737; [www.sheltercoalition.com](http://www.sheltercoalition.com)

**Texas Tailwaggers Village Rescue**  
[txtailwaggers@aol.com](mailto:txtailwaggers@aol.com); [txtailwaggers.petfinder.org](http://txtailwaggers.petfinder.org)

**Westie Rescue of North Texas**  
214.432.7541; [www.wrnt.org](http://www.wrnt.org)

**Help Reduce Rover's Desire To Roam. Please Spay or Neuter Your Pet.**