

So, You've Adopted a Dog!

That's So Amazing! Congrats!

Now in order to make this a successful adoption, here are some things you **NEED** to know and do!

1. Understand that this is an overwhelming experience for your new dog, so do your best to **live a low key lifestyle** over the next couple of weeks. Keep visitors in your home to a minimum, leave your new friend at home rather than taking him/her to parties, soccer games, dog parks, etc, and focus on building a bond through structure and moderate obedience training. Also, make sure your children are aware of proper ways to interact with their new sibling and closely supervise these interactions for now.
2. Rest assured, your new dog needs far more physical exercise and mental stimulation than you currently think is appropriate. **A TIRED DOG IS A GOOD DOG.** This means, long, fast-paced walks or jogs, lots of playtime, multiple short spurts of obedience training (no more than 5-10 minutes at a time), and brain stimulating toys (treat or kibble dispensing toys are great!) EVERY day, rain or shine. Try to skip out on these things? Prepare to be a very frustrated, unhappy dog owner, with a very frustrated, unhappy dog.
3. **Training, training, training!** Older dogs, puppies, adolescents...they all need training! Yes, you may have had dogs before and think you know what you're doing, but we promise you, checking in with a professional, or even watching some positive training videos on YouTube will be SO beneficial. Focus on basic obedience for now: Sit, Down, Stay, Off and Leave It. Dog training is all about baby steps and creating building blocks. Don't try to do too much too fast, or you and your new dog will become frustrated and discouraged.
4. You are bringing an opinionated, willful, and energetic being into your home. **THERE IS NO OFF BUTTON** (we've looked!). This is a huge transition for everyone (you, your spouse, kids, other pets, the new dog), so it's going to take time and patience for things to start going smoothly. The more proactive and aware you are, the easier things will be and become!

For ANY training questions, please email Save One Soul at trainer@sosarl.org



First Vet Visit Checklist

To help ensure a smooth medical care transition for your new dog, please review this checklist and share it with your vet at your first office visit. Prior to adoption, all Save One Soul Animal Rescue League dogs are up to date on age-appropriate core vaccinations, microchipped, spayed/neutered, dewormed, fecal and giardia tested, heartworm negative (or recently treated and microfilaria negative) and on flea/tick/heartworm preventative. Paperwork documenting all of this vetting is transferred at the time of adoption.

Vaccinations

- DAPPv booster** SOS boosters all adults over 6 months and boosters puppies at 2-3 week intervals until the age of 18 weeks.
- Rabies** Required for dogs older than 12 weeks (varies by state).
- Bordatella** SOS recommends that this vaccine is boosted every 12 months for all dogs, or every 6 months if the dog will be around a lot of other dogs (eg, dog park, boarding, daycare).
- Lyme** SOS recommends this vaccination depending upon the adopter's lifestyle (eg, living by woods, hiking, living in New England).
- Leptospirosis** SOS recommends this vaccination depending upon the adopter's lifestyle (eg, living by woods, hiking, wildlife nearby).
- Canine Influenza** Required by some dog daycare/boarding facilities.

Microchip. Please scan to confirm that the number inside the dog is the same as on the dog's paperwork. Microchip Number: _____

Flea/Tick Prevention & Demodectic Mange. SOS recommends year-round flea/tick prevention. SOS uses and has had good success with NexGard and Bravecto. SOS strongly recommends using NexGard or Bravecto for any dogs that have been treated for demodex in the last 3 months and until at least 18 months of age to prevent flare ups; continued use of these specific products may be warranted for some dogs.

Heartworm Prevention & Testing. As part of the SOS adoption contract, SOS adopters commit to keeping their dog on [year-round heartworm preventative](#). SOS regularly uses and recommends Interceptor Plus, Interceptor, and Sentinel (Milbemycin products). Due to the possibility of infection with delayed positive test results, **SOS STRONGLY recommends that every SOS dog be tested 6 months after the date of adoption, and every 12 months thereafter.** This is to catch the disease early, and SOS may offer financial assistance to adopters whose SOS dog converts to heartworm positive within six months after adoption. SOS exclusively supports the American Heartworm Association preventative, testing and treatment protocols. Read more at heartwormsociety.org.

Fecal for Ova & Parasites. SOS recommends every adopter perform a fecal flotation for ova and parasites (including giardia) shortly after adoption; deworming may be necessary. While all SOS dogs are dewormed and tested, this is basic care that is to be expected of a newly adopted animal.

Other Concerns. Any special medical conditions or treatments are documented in the dog's vetting paperwork. Please discuss recommendations for conditions such as: demodex, current medications, suture removal, ehrlichia, etc.

Please do not hesitate to contact SOS at info@sosarl.org to provide feedback on the health of our dogs. Thank you in advance for giving our dogs great care!

Getting to know your new dog

Congratulations! You've adopted an adult dog from a rescue group or shelter. This is the beginning of a great adventure for you and your new pet. Here are some tips to help you navigate the first days, weeks, and months of your life with Spot or Daisy.

Right now, you're probably excited and hopeful as you bring your dog home. And you should be! No one will love you more than your rescued pet.

Keep in mind, though, that all new pets – especially fully grown pets that have been in a shelter or foster care – need time to adjust. Spot won't automatically know that he now has a forever home with you, so he may be anxious, frightened or over-excited. Daisy won't grasp the rules and habits of your home until she's been there a while and benefited from your direction. Spot and Daisy may have been house-trained in a previous home but may not generalize this behavior to a new place.

All dogs – just like people – need time and coaching to be their best. IT WILL GET BETTER! Be patient, think long-term, and remember the 3s.

THE 3s OF ADOPTING AN ADULT DOG: What to expect

- **THREE DAYS: Your dog should start warming up to you.**

During the first three days, provide a quiet environment. Don't introduce your pet to all your friends and family at once. Keep to a regular schedule for eating, sleeping and walks. Offer a small treat when Spot does something desirable. Ignore bad behavior: yelling or touching may simply reinforce it. Coach any children in your home to be gentle and respectful with the dog; emphasize that Daisy is not a toy but a living being. Ask your dog to 'sit' before giving him his food bowl, opening doors and leashing up.

- **THREE WEEKS: Your dog is beginning to fit in.**

Daisy is learning the daily routine. This is when to reinforce good behaviors on a regular basis. Consistency and repetition are key. Don't worry if you feel frustrated or worried. Problems are bound to come up with new pets that are in situations they've never experienced before. Ask a training expert if you have specific concerns. You may want to sign up for a basic obedience class with a certified dog trainer.

- **THREE MONTHS: The dog is at home in your household.**

By this time, most dogs know they are "home." With a good behavior plan, the right training, patience, and – important! – a sense of humor, you and Spot or Daisy are on your way to a rewarding and loving life together.

Remember: You are never done developing a relationship with your dog!

Sources

Dr. Patricia McConnell : www.patriciamccconnell.com

Petfinder.com: "Tips for the First 30 Days of Dog Adoption"

DogsOutLoud.com: "So you've brought home a new dog ... now what?"



Congratulations on your new addition! Thank you for welcoming a rescue dog into your home and heart. We could not save all these precious souls without fabulous homes like yours! We have compiled the following resources to help support you in your new adventure together. ***Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions or concerns; we are here to support you in your new life together!***

Activate Your Dog's FREE Pet Insurance

Dogs are living breathing creatures and can develop medical issues at any time, but many issues often present in the first 30 days of having a new pet due to the stress and newness of the addition. All SOS adoptions are eligible for 30 days of FREE pet insurance. **You must call 855-710-7387 to activate the insurance;** coverage will start after 12am midnight the day after activation.

Register Your Dog's Microchip

Your SOS dog is microchipped. After your vet confirms the microchip number inside your pet, please contact the microchip brand to register your dog for a fee OR you can register your microchip for free here: www.microchipregistry.foundanimals.org.

Find a Trusted Veterinarian

Establishing a relationship with a trusted veterinarian is a very important part of responsible pet guardianship. **You should plan to visit your veterinarian 3-5 days after bring your new dog home.** Many veterinary clinics offer the first office visit for FREE to recently adopted SOS dogs, including possibly:

Coventry Animal Hospital

Dr. Sam Lester
Dr. Hank Wietsma
2091 Nooseneck Hill Rd
Coventry, RI
(401) 385-3882

Wood River Animal Hospital

Dr. Leah Fischer
Dr. David Serra
28 Kingstown Rd
Wyoming, RI 02898
(401) 539-1199

Wolf Rock Animal Health Center

Dr. Elizabeth Hassinger
Dr. Pamela Lumnah
710 South County Trail
Exeter, RI 02822
(401) 294-0102

Hill & Harbor Veterinary Center

Dr. Keith D. Schoen
500 Main Street
East Greenwich, RI 02818
(401) 398-7807

VCA Animal Hospitals

Search here to find a hospital near you:
www.vcahospitals.com

Banfield Pet Hospitals

Search here to find a hospital near you:
www.banfield.com Remember to take
in your SOSARL coupon

Be sure to take the *First Vet Visit Checklist* with you to your first exam!



Training Services

Basic obedience and training classes can go a long way towards getting off on the right paw with your new buddy - regardless of age, breed, or previous. One-on-one, in-home and group trainings can all be effective options, depending upon the dog and issues needing to be addressed. SOS highly recommends:

Bad Dog Basics: Melissa Kroll, RI, www.baddogbasics.com

Jones Animal Behavior: Katenna Jones, RI, www.jonesanimalbehavior.com

John Gagnon's Pet Resort: John Gagnon, CT, www.4dogman.com

Chase K9 Services: Ryan Chase, RI, www.chasek9services.com

Lazybones Dog Training: Patricia Inman, RI, www.lazybonesdogs.com

Outbound Hounds: Heather Gutshall, RI, www.obhounds.com

Petco: www.petco.com/petco_Page_PC_dogtrainingclasses.aspx

Petsmart: pets.petsmart.com/services/dog-training/classes

Tools to Help

Caring for and enjoying your time with your new buddy is a lot easier when you have the right tools. Below are items that we recommend you consider gathering PRIOR to welcoming your new dog home. You can find all of these items at your local pet store, or via online sources like Amazon.com, etc. If you shop via Amazon, please shop AmazonSmile select Save One Soul as your charity of choice.

Safety. You will want to “dog-proof” your home. Any items that your new dog should not have access to should be removed from the floor and/or his reach. If you have children, you will want to discuss expectations about their toys.

Crate. Crates are a valuable tool to have for a variety of reasons, and if trained properly, dogs enjoy and willingly use their crates when it is time for a nap or when they need some quiet time. When transporting a dog, especially a new dog, a crate can be a necessity. For puppies that are learning house manners, a crate can be your best

friend. Getting the right size is important.

Harness, Collar and ID tag. Except for the rare exception, small/medium dogs should always be walked with a leash and harness, not just a leash and collar to avoid escape and/or trachea damage. SOS dogs will be transferred with a collar and SOS ID tag. If your dog is an escape artist or known to be a flight risk, a martingale collar is a MUST; when sized properly, it is impossible for the dog to back out of these collars. Please DO NOT USE A PRONG COLLAR and keep the SOS ID tag on your dog at all times until you swap it out for a personalized one with your contact information.



Leash. We like 4' or 6' leashes; NO RETRACTABLE LEASHES. We have many horror stories we could share about dogs escaping and/or getting hurt/hurting themselves/others with retractable leashes. Please do not use these.

Food. Just as with humans, the health, longevity and quality of life of your new furry friend can be intricately linked to the quality of food s/he eats. You wouldn't feel good if you ate eat junk food everyday, so please don't feed it to your dog! SOS strongly encourages our adopters to consider those foods that receive 5 stars on this website:

www.dogfoodadvisor.com

Misc. Water and food bowls, poop bags.

Cleaning supplies. Even perfectly house trained dogs are likely to have accidents when transitioned to a new home and schedule. Please EXPECT ACCIDENTS in the first few days and reduce the stress on yourself by being prepared. For rug/furniture/hard surface cleaners, we like Nature's Miracle, Rug Doctor Green Pet Formula, and Bubba's Pet Stain & Odor Terminator, but there are many options out there. Be sure it is an enzymatic cleaner, or the smell might not be completely removed and your dog might be drawn back to the same place to go again. For tips on

housetraining, go here:www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/housetraining_puppies.html.

Treats. Stock up on treats before your dog comes home. Get high value treats to help with house training and basic obedience training. Use regular treats to help with bonding and reinforce learned behavior. Please do not feed your dog anything that is not made in the US or Canada.

Toys. Toys can be essential to keeping your dog stimulated and content. Smart/Puzzle toys are helpful to keep your new buddy occupied while you are away. Regular toys - stuffed toys, squeakers, balls - help to keep your dog stimulated and offer play/bonding opportunities with you.

Bedding. Be prepared to make your dog feel at home. Who wouldn't appreciate his own doggie bed/blanket?

Exercise Pen or "xpen". While this is not essential, it can be a lifesaver for families who are adding a puppy or smaller dog who is not yet housetrained. Xpens offer endless assistance by providing a way to separate sections of your home, a room, or create a portable fence you can travel with.

Other Services & Support

Please do not hesitate to contact SOS at info@sosarl.org for advice, or information on other services such as boarding, doggie daycare, behavioral assessments & training, and grooming. Once again, thank you for welcoming a rescue dog into your home and heart!

30-Days of Pet Insurance

Included with your adoption

Why do you need peace of mind?¹



\$500+ Average
vet bill for a cat



\$700+ Average
vet bill for a dog

92% of all pets will experience an
emergency situation in their lifetime

Every **6 seconds** a pet parent is faced
with a vet bill of more than **\$1,000**

A pet receives emergency medical care
every 2.5 seconds in the U.S.

Call Now To Activate!

855-710-7387

Monday-Friday | 8am-9pm EST
Saturday and Sunday | 10am-7pm EST

Coverage begins immediately following activation.

Love is Simple. So is PetFirst.

Your 30-days of pet insurance includes:

\$1,000 of coverage for accidents & illnesses with a \$500 per-incident limit

100% reimbursement after a \$50 deductible for accidents & illnesses

Use **any licensed vet, emergency clinic or specialist**



Extended coverage includes:

Coverage for cats and dogs; **all breeds and all ages**

Accidents & illnesses, including breed-specific, congenital, and chronic conditions

Protection available for the **life of the pet**



This is the real deal!

This is the best pet insurance on the market! They make claim submission, review and payment fast, easy and seamless. I am so grateful that the humane society recommended it. If you have a new pet, or even an aging one, please make the call and check it out. You will be so thankful you did.

– Lacey, Pet Parent

*This is only a brief description of the coverage(s) available. The Policy will contain reductions, limitations, exclusions and termination provisions. Plans and coverage vary by state. PetFirst Healthcare, LLC is the program administrator authorized to offer and administer pet health insurance policies underwritten by Independence American Insurance Company, a Delaware insurance company, with its main office at 485 Madison Avenue, NY, NY 10022, or New Hampshire Insurance Company or The Insurance Company of the State of Pennsylvania, each with its main administrative office at 500 West Madison Street, Suite 3000 Chicago, IL 60661. †For costs and complete details of coverage, including information on the identity of the insurer in your state and information sources, please visit PetFirst.com/leaflet.

ALL DOGS ARE INDIVIDUALS

why looks don't equal behavior



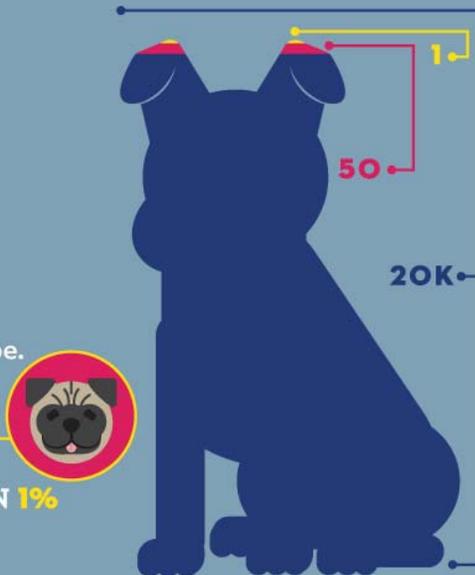
MEET THE CANINE GENOME

The dog genome consists of approximately **20,000** genes

Variation across **50** genes determines breed defining physical traits

Variation in very few genes determines a dog's head shape. In **BRACHYCEPHALIC** dogs, it's just **1** gene

This means that **LESS THAN 1%** of a dog's genes determine **PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**



When we look at a dog and see breed, we are seeing **ONLY** **ROUGHLY 50** of their nearly **20,000** GENES **0.25%**

That is **0.25%** of a dog's **ENTIRE GENOME.**

The set of **50** genes associated with physical appearance is **DIFFERENT** from the set of thousands of genes responsible for **brain development** and **function.**

LOOKS
DON'T
EQUAL
BEHAVIOR



How are PURE BREED and MIXED BREED dogs different?

Pure breed dogs come from a **CLOSED** gene pool.

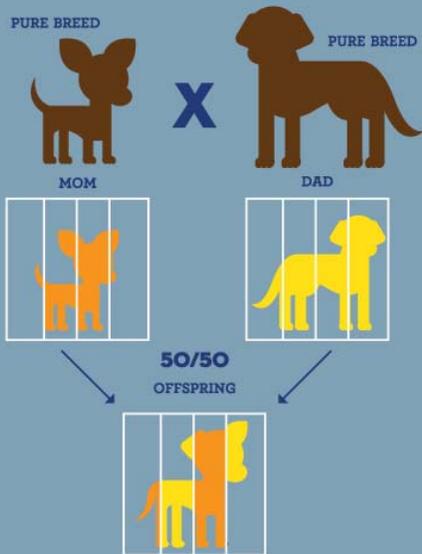


Mixed breed dogs come from a **VARIED** gene pool.

Once a dog is **LESS THAN 100%** of a single breed, they have genetic variations that make them **DISTINCT** from that breed.

A MIXED BREED DOG IS **NO** BREED AT ALL!

MEET THE PARENTS



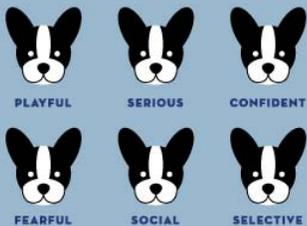
We can't accurately predict the behavior of **MIXED BREED DOGS** by comparing them to **PURE BREED DOGS**, even if the pure breed dog is a parent.

The offspring of 2 different pure breed dogs isn't a member of either parent's breed.

IT IS MISSING 50% of each parental breed's DNA, and we don't know *which 50%*!

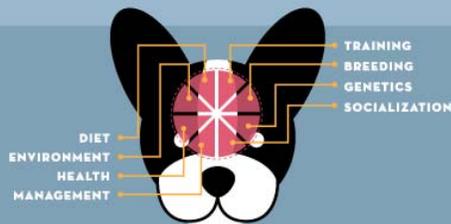
PURE BREED DOGS ARE NOT CLONES

Unlike human identical twins, pure breed dogs have different DNA



Dogs may look alike, but only **0.25%** of their genome determines their breed defining physical traits. *The rest can vary.*

The behavior of ALL dogs is influenced by many factors. That is why breed traits are **POSSIBLE** but **NOT GUARANTEED**.



What about DNA tests?

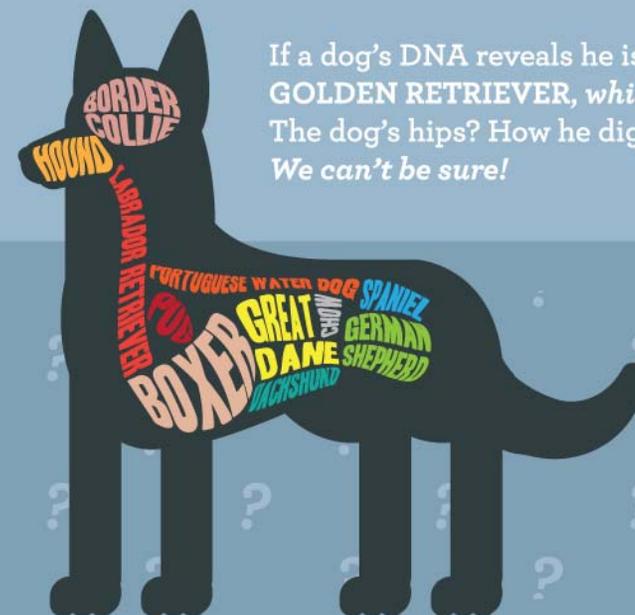
DNA tests help identify a dog's ancestors. Knowing a dog's breed mix will not help us determine behavior because:

1. the BEHAVIOR of ALL dogs (pure breed or mixed) is always influenced by a variety of outside factors.

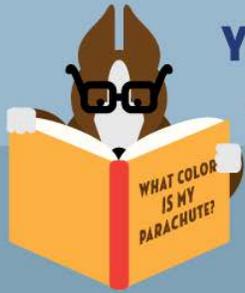
2. ONCE A DOG IS A mixed breed dog, they are not a member of any breed. Each mixed breed dog, even those from the same litter, will have a unique genome.

3. EVEN IF WE KNOW the breeds present in a mixed breed dog's DNA, we do not know which parts of the dog are influenced by those breeds.

FOR EXAMPLE

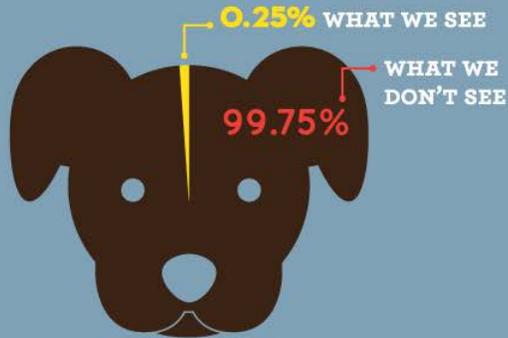


If a dog's DNA reveals he is **12.5% GOLDEN RETRIEVER**, which 12.5% is it? The dog's hips? How he digests food? *We can't be sure!*



YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK *by its cover*

Visual identification of mixed breed dogs is highly inaccurate.



We cannot accurately predict future behavior based on how a dog looks on the outside, their breed, or their DNA results.

ALL DOGS ARE INDIVIDUALS



GET TO KNOW EACH DOG IN FRONT OF YOU!

CITATIONS:

- The Dog and It's Cover by Elaine Ostrander
- Genetics and the Social Behavior of the Dog by Scott and Fuller
- National Geographic: <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/00212102/walk-a-dog-really-see/>
- Krutzfeldt, J. History. PhD: <http://www.vetmed.com/2007/05/20/>
- Jane Bradley, The Reliance of Breed in Selecting a Companion Dog: <http://www.vetmed.com/05/16/09/01/>
- Dr. Victoria Yuth: <http://www.nationalcancerresearch.com/breed-identification-1/>



ABSTRACTS:

- Biographic traits: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20024730>
- Morphological traits: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20078490>
- Brain development genes: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22031642>
- Central facial development: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/16192454>
- <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/20008207>
- Canine skull development: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23396475>



■ A pet is lost every seven seconds in the United States. Without ID, many lost pets never make it home.

What is the Found Animals Registry?

The Found Animals Registry was built for one reason: all lost pets deserve to find their way home. We are dedicated to finding the simplest, most straightforward solution to make that happen.

We offer an easy and accessible service to ensure that your dog or cat gets home safely. We believe two of the most important things you can do for your pet are to register his or her microchip and ensure your contact information is always up-to-date.

Registered microchips lead to fewer pets in shelters and more pets at home where they belong.

By accepting all brands of microchips and offering free registration, we remove the barriers that prevent pet owners from registering their pets' microchips, and help you protect your pet for life.

How the Found Animals Registry works

From microchipping and registration to reunification

1

Microchip pet



Microchipping provides your pet permanent ID

2

Register & update



Registering your contact info ensures your pet finds you

3

Lost pet is found & scanned



Lost pet can be scanned at any animal facility

4

Alerts broadcast



Automated alerts sent to your phone, text & email

5

Pet is reunited



Reunite with your pet and bring them home

Talk with your animal care provider or visit www.found.org for more information.

www.found.org



■ From microchipping and registration to reunification, we bring lost pets **home.**

Every lost pet deserves to be found.

www.found.org



Why should I microchip my pet?

Approximately one in three pets is lost in its lifetime. Without identification, many lost pets never make it home. A registered microchip greatly increases the likelihood that your pet will be returned to you. Shelters report that microchipped dogs are 2.4 times more likely to be reunited with their families and microchipped cats are reunited 21.4 times more often!

A microchip:

- Provides permanent identification
- Is quick and painless to implant
- Holds a unique ID number that links to your contact information
- Helps your pet get home safely

Your pet should always wear a collar with license and identification tags. However, when collars are damaged or lost, the microchip is your pet's only permanent identification.

Where can I get my pet microchipped?

Many shelters, clinics, veterinarians, and humane organizations offer microchipping; some even provide low-cost clinics and walk-in services. Call facilities in your area to determine which services are offered.

How can I find out if my pet is already microchipped?

Your veterinarian, clinic or local shelter can quickly scan your pet to determine if there is a microchip. If so, write down the number and register your contact information immediately at www.found.org.



How does a microchip work?

A microchip is a small device — about the size of a grain of rice — implanted beneath your pet's skin. It contains a unique identification number that links to your contact information in a registry. The microchip itself does not store your contact information.

A microchip is not a GPS or tracking device. It is only when your lost pet is found, scanned, and searched in a registry that someone will be able to contact you, so it is critical to keep your contact information current in a microchip registry. You can register any microchip and update your information for free at www.found.org.

Why should I register my microchip?

Lost pets are reunited when microchips are registered and contact information is kept up to date. Without registration, the microchip number cannot identify a pet's owner. **Registration is how you connect your contact information with your pet's microchip, ensuring that your family can be contacted if your lost pet is found.**

- You can register *any* microchip and update your information for free in the Found Animals Registry, at www.found.org.

What are Found Pet Alerts?

A Found Pet Alert allows animal care professionals to instantly alert pet owners that a lost pet has been found. Within minutes of activating a Found Pet Alert, the Found Animals Registry will automatically notify the pet owner and any emergency contacts via phone, text, and email with information on where to pick up the pet. The Found Pet Alerts will continue for up to four days or until the alert is turned off by either the pet owner or the organization that found the lost pet.

Why is the Found Animals Registry different?

As a nonprofit organization, the Found Animals Registry believes that all lost pets deserve to be reunited with their families. We are dedicated to finding the simplest, most straightforward solution to make that happen.

The Found Animals Registry:

- Is 100% FREE for all U.S. pets
- Accepts all microchip brands
- Provides lifetime protection and updates
- Automatically notifies you and your emergency contacts if your pet is found

Use this link and PetMeds® will DONATE \$20 to our shelter

Go to PetMeds.com/SOSARL



Same exact brands as your vet, **FOR LESS!**

1-800-PetMeds

America's Largest Pet Pharmacy

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed • FREE Shipping \$49+

100% Satisfaction Guaranteed, or Your Money Back!

FLEAS



Save on vet-recommended flea & tick protection to prevent tick-borne diseases, allergic reactions & tapeworms now.

HEART WORM



Deadly heartworms are difficult to remove, but easy to prevent. Get the best protection for less!

JOINT



Support joint function and reduce arthritis pain for a healthier, happier & active pet.



Dr. Michael Dym, VMD

You save **20%**

PetMeds® donates **\$20** to us

Cannot combine offers

Go to PetMeds.com/SOSARL