



CHICO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PRESS RELEASE

530-897-4900

Ensure Your Pet Has a Ticket Home by Celebrating “Every Day Is Tag Day”

On April 7, the City of Chico Animal Services along with the American Humane Society celebrates “Every Day is Tag Day”, an event that raises awareness on the importance of getting your pets tagged and microchipped. In 2011, the City of Chico shelter had over 3000 dogs and cats picked up stray. Of those, less than 50% of the dogs and less than 1% of the cats were returned to their owners. Many of the dogs and most of the cats that were reunited with their owners were either wearing tags and / or were microchipped. Providing your pet with identification can ensure your pet has a ticket home.

Make sure your pet wears a collar with a current ID tag, a rabies tag, and for dogs, a city or county license. The ID tag should include a contact name, address and daytime and evening phone numbers. Consider adding a phone number for an alternate contact like a neighbor or family member. Keep your pet’s license and ID tag current! Make sure to update the tag if you change your address or phone number. When moving or traveling, place a temporary tag on your pet with the phone number of someone who knows how to reach you.

In California, the law requires that all dogs over the age of four months receive a rabies vaccination by a licensed veterinarian. A dog license must then be purchased within 30 days of receiving the rabies vaccination. Your dog’s license is proof of a current rabies vaccination. If your pet is ever involved in a bite, being licensed may allow him to be quarantined at home instead of at a shelter or veterinary clinic.

Make sure your ID tags are attached to a properly fitting collar. With a properly fitting collar, you should be able to slip two fingers under your dog’s collar, no more. Any looser and the dog may be able to slip it off. If you don’t like the “jangle” of tags, use rivets to attach the tags to the collar, or check pet stores for products that help keep tags quiet.

For your cat, use a “safety” collar specifically designed for cats. These should also be fitted with the two finger rule, but are “quick release” or expandable to allow the cat to slip free if it becomes caught on a fence or tree. Every year hundreds of friendly, apparently owned cats enter the shelter without collars, often because their owners were afraid to collar them. And collars are not just for outside cats. Your inside cat should always wear a collar and tag, as you never know when they might slip out by accident. It may take several days, but your cat can become accustomed to wearing a collar.

A microchip is the last line of defense to get your pet home. Your pet can’t leave home without his microchip. All animals are scanned for a microchip when they enter the shelter. Make sure you register your microchip with one of the national databases, and keep your contact information current. It’s good to include information about your veterinarian and a family member or friend that will care for your pet if you are unavailable, with the microchip registry. While the animal shelter is able to scan for a microchip, your neighbor most likely doesn’t, so a collar with identification tags is a great addition to the microchip.

Make a resolution to your beloved pets that you will keep them safe by making every day Tag Day.

For more information contact Tracy Mohr, City of Chico Animal Services Manager at (530) 894-5630.

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Watch Commander:

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