

## **MISSING PET PREVENTION**

There are few things more terrifying to a pet owner than when you suddenly realize your pet is missing. Here are some simple steps you can take to ensure your pet stays safe!

### **Dog Tips:**

- Keep tags up to date
- Get your dog microchipped and keep your information with the microchip company up to date
- Consider writing/sewing your phone number on the inside of a flat collar if your dog cannot wear tags due to allergies or other sensitivities
- Use a flat collar only for ID tag purposes and not for walking to reduce the risk of it breaking
- To prevent your dog from backing out of his/her collar use a martingale, or no-slip, collar
- Periodically check the fit on your dog's harness and collar so he cannot slip out in a panic
- Periodically check fencing to ensure there are no areas in need of maintenance that may result in your dog squeezing through
- Check that nothing is placed next to the fence high enough to allow a dog to climb or jump over
- If your dog has a history of climbing fences consider installing Coyote Rollers (<http://www.coyoteroller.com>)
- During transport or any time your dog will be in and out of a car consider having someone hold his/her leash the whole time, not having the back windows open too much, having only one door open at a time when exiting the vehicle and having your dog in a crate until secured inside

### **Cat Tips:**

- Keep tags up to date
- Get your cat microchipped and keep your information with the microchip company up to date
- Find a collar that is stretchy and soft with a Velcro closure, this will enable your cat to escape should he be caught on anything so they will not wind up strangled but not break as easily as a plastic buckle
- Always transport your cat in a carrier
- Periodically check your cat's carrier to ensure all parts are in working order and close/lock securely
- If your cat is accustomed to wearing a harness to enjoy outdoor time, routinely check that nothing is frayed and it fits correctly
- Never fit your cat for a harness outside
- If you have a door darting cat, consider behavior modification/training so they do not attempt and wind up successful at getting outside
- Check any screen doors or windows routinely for safety and security to prevent your cat accidentally escaping