



Pets get lost every day, but by following some simple tips you can minimize your risk.

- **Make sure your collar is sized correctly — and for cats, always use a breakaway collar!**
- **Walk dogs with an appropriate leash and collar.** Stay in control and be sure they can't "back out" if startled.
- **Be sure your home and yard are secure.** This includes window screens, doors, and especially gates.
- **Consider a catio for cats who long for the outdoors.** Cats live longer, healthier lives indoors, but some cats are persistent in wanting to spend time outside. A screened "catio" provides a safe environment for these cats..

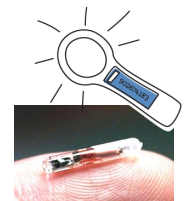
Stressful situations can bring out anxiety in the best of us. Some pets have a very hard time with thunderstorms and fireworks, and they might try to escape the scary noises by running away. Here are some things you can do to create a calming environment for your pets to keep them safe.



- **Keep them inside.** Let pets out early for a potty break if necessary, and then keep them inside until well after the event is over. Even if they have an accident in the house, it is better than the risk of losing your pet.
- **Play music in the background.** Turn on a radio or a TV music channel at a medium volume to help drown out the loud sounds that can startle your pets. Playing something you listen to often might help them feel comfortable and safe, but classical music is always a good option too.
- **Use aromatherapy.** Calming diffusers can provide pheromones and fragrances designed to minimize anxiety and help reduce your pet's stress. Many people use lavender for calming nerves.
- **Keep them occupied.** Have their favorite toys and treats handy. For dogs, try a frozen Kong stuffed with treats.
- **Use a calming wrap or Thundershirt.** Like humans, some pets are comforted by being swaddled. Thundershirts and Anxiety Wraps help these pets feel safe and secure during stressful events.
- **Stay calm.** Keep your pet company, and stay calm yourself. This will help reassure your pet that there is no real danger. If you have anxiety, you are more likely to create more anxiety in your pet as well.
- **Pre-medicate if necessary.** For very scared dogs, consult a veterinarian to see if medication is an option.

Even though we all hope our pets will never get lost, you should always be prepared just in case.

- **Microchip your pet — and be sure to register it!** A microchip provides a way for a vet clinic or shelter to get in touch with you just by using a wireless scanner to get the chip's ID number. By contacting the registry, they can get your contact information and get your pet home to you quickly. Make sure you keep your contact information up to date with your registry!



- **Mark your pet's collar with your phone number.** Keeping your pet's license attached to your pet's collar is an easy way to identify a pet's owner. You can also write your phone number directly onto your pet's collar with a permanent marker—then there's no doubt about who to call if they are found!