

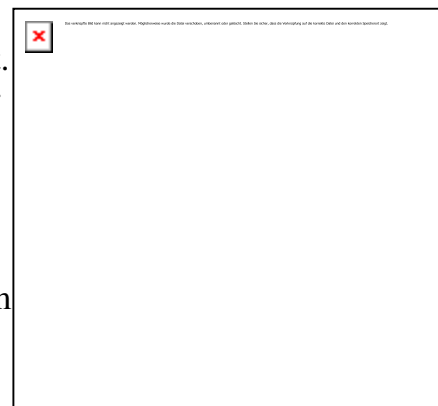
# The Bark & Mew

Information & Updates from Falconbridge Animal Hospital & Village Veterinary Hospital  
May 2013 Volume 1 Issue 9

## Identification for Your Pet's Safety

For many of us our pets are our four legged family members and we can't imagine what life would be like without them snuggling us on the couch (aka blocking the TV), racing us down the stairs for breakfast (aka tripping us before we even get to the coffeepot), and helping us while we make dinner for the two legged members of the household (aka praying that we drop something). So to help ensure that we get to enjoy the benefits of pet parenthood as long as possible it is important that everyone can tell who they are. Effective pet identification methods can help ensure that if your pet ever slips the leash, sneaks out the door when you're not looking, or ventures too far from home anyone finding him or her can help your pet get home to you.

We recommend that all pet owners should use one or more of these identification methods to help ensure their pet's safe return if they become lost. Collars and tags are a reliable way to identify your pet. Make sure your dog or cat always wears a collar with a current identification tag. The tag should include: pet's name, owner's name and address, a phone number with voice mail to be reached day or night, and rabies information.



If your pet loses the collar and tags, using a Microchip Identification System (Microchipping) is another way to identify your pet that can't be lost. It involves implanting a tiny capsule that is about the size of a grain of rice with a hypodermic needle under the pet's skin, usually between the shoulder blades. Microchips can be used on dogs, cats, ferrets, birds, horses and other companion pets. The owner then sends the information to a registering agency along with current contact and alternate contact information in the event the pet becomes lost. There is a required registration fee. When pets are found,

any agency with a scanner, including many animal care and control agencies, veterinary clinics, and research labs, can quickly identify a code that links the animal to its owner through a national database. Thousands of pets were returned to their owners after Hurricane Katrina using the microchip ID system. But the microchip implant in your pet is useless if you don't register your contact information.

Another permanent ID system is tattooing even though this is less common since microchips have become available. The tattoo is placed in the pet's ear, abdomen, or on the inside of the pet's thigh. The finder of the lost pet calls a national database that uses the code to obtain the owner's current address and phone number. Each registry has its own coding system.

Whichever system you chose to use, remember to keep your contact information up to date and to let your registry and vet know if your pet goes missing so that we can get your pet home safe as quickly as possible.

## Holiday Boarding Deposit

We have implemented a holiday boarding deposit to help ensure that as many of our patients as possible have access to our boarding facilities. The deposit is \$50 per pet and will be applied to your pet's bill if the reservation is used. Deposits are refundable if notice is given more than 48 hours prior to the start of the reservation. No holiday reservations are final without a paid deposit.

Remember holidays and summer boarding fills up fast so be sure to plan ahead. If you need to schedule a boarding reservation for your pet please call us at 919-403-5591.

### Feline Photo Contest

We usually share photos of dogs because most of our feline patients arrive in carriers preventing us from snapping photos of our star cats! So

set your camera out and flip through your photo archives! From now until 6pm on May 31, 2013 we will be accepting submissions for our feline photo contest. Send your favorite photos of your favorite cat to Kelly@FalconbridgeAnimal.com to enter.

\*\*\*\*\*ALL PHOTOS submitted MUST be of cats who HAVE BEEN SEEN AT FALCONBRIDGE or VILLAGE VET!!!\*\*\*\*\*

The Grand Prize Winner will receive one free Day at the Spa (aka Feline Grooming) or 4 free doses of Frontline Plus for Cats. Best in each category (see below) will receive an 8x10 Glossy print of their photo.

Winners will be announced and contacted June 10, 2013. Submitting your photos is easy; just pick a category and follow the submission guidelines.

All photo contest submissions received become the property of Falconbridge Animal Hospital, and might be published at any time in print or online. So be sure to keep

checking Facebook and picking up your copy of The Bark & Mew and see if your best friend is in it! How cool is that?!

We really look forward to your entries and to an awesome 2013 contest! Thank you, as always, for supporting Falconbridge Animal Hospital and Village Veterinary Hospital and for helping promote animal welfare!

**To get your picture ready to send to us:**

1. Make sure it is in the right format- we can only accept high quality digital pictures
2. Identify which of the categories best fits your photograph.
3. Attach your photograph to the email (remember-we need high quality digital versions of your

photos!)

4. In the subject line write "Cat Photo Contest." In the body of the email, be sure to let us know who you are and how to contact you so you can collect your prize. Please include your: Name (First and Last), Pet's Name, Address, Phone Number, Email address (if it is different than the email you're sending us the entry from).

Once you've got that all together, email your completed entry and all information to Kelly@FalconbridgeAnimal.com and voila! Your submission will be on its way to us. You will receive an automated response letting you know that your email was received.

**The categories are:**

- Most Photogenic
- Most Eccentric
- Most Sophisticated
- Most Patient
- Grumpiest Cat
- Caught in the Act
- Most Relaxed
- Unlikeliest Couple
- Sweetest Senior
- Most Adorable Baby



misplaced during natural disasters.

### Disaster Preparedness

Thousands of pets have been

The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina left people and animals struggling to find safe housing. Closer to home, flooding throughout the coast during Hurricane Floyd resulted in evacuations that left many pets behind at shelters and in individual homes. Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon problem in the panic and rush that comes with pending disaster. Things get forgotten and left behind. Do you have a plan to make sure it isn't your pet?

- Assemble an animal emergency supply kit/travel kit with at least 3 days of supplies.
- Develop a pet care buddy system; neighbors & relatives may be able to help care for your pets if you are caught away from home.
- Since public shelters don't always accept pets, make arrangements for your pets to board outside your immediate area with family, friends, or a commercial facility.
- Do NOT leave your pets behind if you are forced to evacuate! If they survive you may not find them



when you return home!

- Microchipping is the most reliable form of pet id if you are separated from your pet.