



FACA Policy Statement

License Tags/Permanent Identification

The Florida Animal Control Association recommends that local animal ordinances require all dogs and cats to be licensed and to wear the license tag at all times. Tags serve to identify animals and their owners to help facilitate the safe return home of lost pets. License tags also allow for the incorporation of this information into public records. Licenses should be issued only upon proof of current rabies immunizations, as recommended by public health officials.

FACA encourages pet licensing so that rabies vaccination status can be determined through information associated with each tag in the event a bite occurs. The status of animal's rabies vaccination may have bearing on whether the pet has to be quarantined at home or at an animal shelter or veterinary clinic. Rabies vaccination status is a critical piece of information in any bite situation or when a domestic animal comes into contact with a known or suspected rabid animal.

FACA recommends that each animal control and protection agencies have a system in place for local veterinarians to remit rabies certificates to them upon rabies vaccination of pets pursuant to Florida Statute, 828.30 (3).

FACA also endorses the use of implantable microchips as they provide a definitive, unalterable, and economic means of permanent identification and proof of ownership. Microchips should be used as a secondary means of identification to the required license tag since the average citizen does not own a microchip scanner.

FACA strongly recommends that all animal control and protection agencies routinely scan for the presence of microchips using a universal scanner to detect and read a variety of microchips. Animals should always be re-scanned for a microchip prior to being euthanized.

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