

PET IDENTIFICATION

Bernalillo County's Animal Care Ordinance 2008-15 requires pet identification. Section 6-43 e) states: "Pet identification is mandatory. Identification techniques may be used that reflect technological advances, such as microchip technology, if owner information is obtainable by an Animal Care Services Officer, Shelter, Veterinarian, or other appropriate organization. Methods of identification should include one of the following, but is not limited to, microchip, license tags, identification tags, or tattoos applied by a veterinarian. If the only means of identification used is a tag, the current license tag shall be securely affixed to the collar or harness which shall be worn by a dog, cat or ferret unless the animal is being housed in a kennel or veterinary hospital, or appearing in a bona fide animal show, or is being trained; provided, however, that the person who is training the animal shall have in his personal possession a valid license tag for each animal and shall immediately display the license upon request by the Animal Care Services Department. Identification methods must be kept up to date and current with owner information."

Microchipping can be performed for various fees at many sites in the County. It is important to remember that the microchip must be registered after it has been implanted in the animal. The Animal Humane Association offers microchipping for \$20 per animal and the fee includes registration of the microchip. The City of Albuquerque's Animal Welfare office will perform microchipping for pets of County residents if the animal is sterilized. The cost is \$15 per animal. Private veterinarians also provide this service, with rates ranging from \$28 to \$96 per animal.

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