

Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

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Old Windsor

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Old Windsor
Berkshire
SL4 2JN

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Brands Hatch

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Ash
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www.dogshome.org

Factsheet

Why you need a lead and ID



Registered Charity No. 206394
A member of the Association of Dogs and Cats Homes

Ref: 04/ED/04



At Battersea Dogs & Cats Home we're all too aware of the large number of dogs that go missing each year: last year we received nearly 7,000 reports to our Lost Dogs and Cats Line.

However, there is a lot that you, as a responsible owner, can do to keep your dog safe and sound. Read on for vital information about pet identification, including legal requirements and how to microchip your dog, and advice on when your dog should be kept on a lead.

Pet identification

- Have your dog or cat microchipped. The ID chip can be inserted by your local vet and costs between £10 and £30. The microchip is inserted under the scruff of the neck and is a simple and painless procedure. The chip is permanent and can be read with a scanner if your pet is found. The number of the chip is on a central register along with your name and address, so you can be contacted.
- Make sure your dog or cat wears a secure collar and tag with your details on it at all times, in addition to a microchip. Collars and tags are a legal requirement for dogs and you could be fined if your dog doesn't have one!
- Register your dog or cat with a database-driven visible identification scheme like *Petsafe* and put their tag on the animal's collar. If your dog or cat is found and reported to them, they will call you with your pet's location and details for you to contact. For example, lifetime membership with *Petsafe* includes *Petsafe* providing the finder/vet with essential medical information and £500 towards emergency veterinary treatment.

Remember to keep your microchip and pet identification details up to date if you move house or change your telephone number!

Need for the lead

It is very distressing for all involved when a dog is lost or hurt. On many occasions, simply keeping your dog on a lead can prevent this from happening...

- Keep your dog on a lead at all times, unless in an area where it is safe to let him off the lead. Do not let your dog off the lead along main roads and side roads. Certain areas such as gated parks or beaches are great places to exercise your dog.
- Unless you are 100% sure that he will come back when you ask him to, again do not let him off the lead. For advice on recall techniques, please contact our Behaviour Advice Line on **0905 020 0222** (calls cost 25p per minute).
- In certain areas it is an offence not to use a lead (a decision made by local authorities).

Useful numbers

Petsafe: 0870 605 0060

Petlog: 0870 606 6751

Lost Dogs and Cats Line: 0901 477 8477

(calls cost 60p per minute)

