

On the Positive Side: Microchipping can provide peace of mind, even in loss

By Anna Debroux

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At this time of joy and happiness, our hearts are saddened by the continued separation from our four-legged family member, Chilee. She was chased off by a larger dog on Nov. 16, 2013 during an evening walk, and though we searched sunrise to sunset for the following weeks, she has not returned. We have placed an ad in the paper and we have notices posted on the Internet on various websites, and though there have had a few potential sightings, she remains lost.

The hole left in our hearts is tremendous, and if you have ever been in the company of a Jack Russell Terrier, then you understand how huge of a presence they are and how empty it feels once they are gone. She was the nanny to four cats who are now raucous and rowdy without her constant supervision and intervention.

Our Chihuahua misses her warmth and shivers at night on their bed. The house seems empty when we return from work without her happy wiggles and whines of relief at our return. Our largest cat, tough and aloof, is constantly checking the back door to see if she has yet returned.

All pet owners who have ever lost a furry friend know exactly the feelings we are experiencing, and the desperation that underlies it all.

We did what was suggested and had Chilee microchipped. Even through the sadness and emptiness we are experiencing, there is an underlying essence of hope that continues to tug at our hearts and in a strange way, there is peace of mind knowing that even though she is out there without us, we may one day be united, or in the alternative, learn of her demise.

This can only happen if we all understand the importance of taking a lost dog that has been found to either a local vet or the animal shelter to be scanned.

Dog catchers are now also equipped with scanners, so if a lost dog cannot be captured, then a request should be made to the local shelter or pound for a dog catcher to come to the location where the dog has been sighted, and if at all possible, the location of the dog should be monitored while the catcher is in route. We have had calls from kind and concerned individuals who potentially saw Chilee, but by the time we arrive at the location given, there is no sign of her.

The possibility that someone decided to claim Chilee for themselves is an ethical dilemma without a solution.

It takes a concerted effort on the behalf of many to ensure a safe outcome for any lost animal. This article has focused on one lost dog, but replace the word dog with any animal and the same applies.

In an effort to save lives, reunite pets with owners and save money, microchipping is an avenue of hope and effectiveness and in the end, peace of mind.

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