



As small as a grain of rice!

## Microchips & Registration

Did you know 1 out of 3 pets will find themselves lost in their lifetime? Many loved family pets end up in animal shelters. Shelters do their best to locate owners, but often cannot find the pet's owner because the pet has no form of identification. Microchipping is a technology that is virtually painless for your pet and creates a permanent method of identification.

A small computer microchip is embedded under your pet's skin, usually between their shoulder blades. The chip contains a unique ID number that identifies your pet and is linked to the owners information. If your pet is ever lost and enters a shelter or clinic, your pet will be scanned and your information can be easily located to contact you! As a responsible pet owner, ensure all your pets are microchipped and that you keep this information up to date!

*Where can I get my pet chipped and how much does it cost?*

Microchips are inserted by most veterinarians and animal clinics. BARC's Wellness Center offers microchips at a low cost!

*Is microchipping mandatory?*

Yes! The city of Houston has updated its ordinance regarding owned pets, and microchipping for all dogs and cats is now mandatory in addition to registering your pet with the city and vaccinating your pet against rabies. A City of Houston pet registration identifies and protects your pet in case it becomes lost and lets everyone know your pet is not a homeless stray. Learn more about microchipping and registration on our website!



Responsible pet ownership begins with 3 words:

LOVE 

 CARE

& PROTECT 

Caring for your pet's health and keeping them safe are the keys to creating a responsible home for your pets to live in.

Loving your pet is easy! See how BARC can help with the rest.



Visit our website at [www.HoustonBARC.com](http://www.HoustonBARC.com) or scan the QR code to view our services and learn more!



To speak to a BARC team member call 832-395-9084



# BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER



# CARE FOR YOUR PET BY...

## Spaying/Neutering

Spay and Neuter is a surgical procedure to sterilize a pet. Every year, thousands of unwanted dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens enter BARC, the City of Houston's Municipal Animal Shelter. Many of these pets are products of unwanted or accidental litters, which can be prevented by spaying or neutering. By spaying or neutering your pet, you not only help reduce the pet overpopulation in your community, but you are also making sure your pet remains healthy and safe.

There are many health and behavioral benefits to spaying or neutering your pet. Spaying/neutering your pet greatly reduces the chance of cancer development later in life. Many infections and reproductive illnesses can also be reduced by spaying or neutering your dog or cat. Neutering your male dog or cat reduces their breeding instinct, making them less inclined to roam and more likely to stay safe at home.

Contact BARC or your local veterinarian to learn more about spay & neuter!

### Need assistance in getting your pets spayed or neutered?



Healthy Pets Healthy Streets (HPHS) is a city program that offers free spay/neuter services to pet owners in the City of Houston. Each pet that receives spay/neuter services will also receive a free microchip, a rabies vaccine, and a one-year pet registration. You must live inside city of Houston limits to qualify, and certain restrictions may apply. Appointments are available online.

Visit our website to make an appointment or email [BARCoutreach@houstontx.gov](mailto:BARCoutreach@houstontx.gov) today to learn more!

## Taking them to the Vet!

Pets benefit greatly from yearly visits to the doctor just like humans do! BARC recommends all pets see a veterinarian for preventative care every year or as often as your veterinarian suggests.

### Vaccines

Many illnesses like, distemper, parvo virus, and panleukopenia can be deadly for our pets. Thankfully these illnesses can be prevented by vaccinating your pet. How many vaccines and their frequency will depend on your pet's age and lifestyle. Some vaccines, like the rabies vaccine, are mandatory for all owned pets in the City of Houston.

### Fleas & Parasites

Not only are fleas, ticks, and worms uncomfortable for your pet and family, they can also become a medical emergency if an infestation is present. Keeping your pet on flea prevention and routinely deworming can help keep your pet parasite free and healthy.



### Heartworms

Heartworm disease is a serious and potentially fatal disease which affects dogs and other mammals in the United States and other parts of the world. Heartworms are a vector disease caused by foot-long worms that live in the dog's heart and can be prevented. Heartworm preventative is available as a pill, a spot-on topical medication, or as an injection. This disease is transmitted by mosquitos. Due to the high density of the disease and mosquitos in our area, all dogs in your household should be on heartworm prevention.

Visit [www.heartwormsociety.org](http://www.heartwormsociety.org) to learn more about heartworm disease in dogs.

**BARC's Wellness Center\* offers low cost vaccines, flea prevention, and heartworm prevention. Services are available by appointment only, visit our website to make an appointment!**

\*BARC's Wellness Center is NOT a full service clinic and only offers vaccines and prevention. If your pet is sick or injured please visit a full service clinic.



# PROTECT YOUR PET

## The Safe Outdoor Dog Act

All outdoor dogs must have adequate shelter to protect them from extreme temperatures, standing water and inclement weather. Dogs kept outdoor must also have access to clean drinkable water at all times. Tethered dogs must have safe restraints - chains are NOT allowed.

In 2021, the Texas Legislature passed SB 5 - the Safe Outdoor Dogs Act - to protect unattended dogs restrained outdoors.

## Keep them Safe

Keeping your cat indoors and keeping your dog on a leash is the law! Per city ordinance, owned pets must not roam freely on the streets or public property. Keep your pets on a leash and inside their home or yard.

## Extreme Weather

If temperatures are too uncomfortable for you, it's likely that they are also uncomfortable for your pet. Never leave a pet unattended in a hot car or outdoors with no shade. In the winter, provide your pets with adequate shelter from the elements.

It is also important to consider extreme weather when making emergency plans for your pets. The Houston area is often affected by hurricanes and severe flooding. Prepare a pet emergency kit and keep your pet's microchips up to date in case of emergencies or evacuations.

