

<b>IDENTIFICATION</b>	<p>All <b>live dogs and cats</b> must be identified by the research facility. [2.38(g), Policy #13, Policy #20]</p> <p>NOTE: If a research facility is also licensed as a dealer, then all the requirements of Section 2.50 apply (see Dealer Inspection Guide).</p>
<b>Criteria</b>	<p>All live dogs and cats must be identified if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• held on the premises</li> <li>• purchased or otherwise acquired, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ donation</li> <li>▸ from pounds/shelters</li> <li>▸ from breeders</li> <li>▸ from private individuals</li> </ul> </li> <li>• sold or otherwise disposed of</li> <li>• removed from the premises for delivery to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ another research facility</li> <li>▸ a dealer</li> <li>▸ a person for use as a pet</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Unweaned puppies or kittens do <b>not</b> need to be individually identified if: [2.38(g)(3)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintained as a litter with their dam in the same primary enclosure, AND</li> <li>• the dam has been individually identified</li> </ul>
<b>Methods of Identification</b>	<p>A live dog or cat, including a weaned puppy or kitten, must be identified by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tag affixed to the animal's neck with a collar [2.38(g)(1)(i) &amp; (ii)]</li> <li>• tattoo [2.38(g)(1)(i) &amp; (ii)]</li> <li>• collar [2.38(g)(1)(ii)]</li> <li>• approved microchip [Policy #13]</li> </ul> <p>If a research facility acquires a live dog or cat which is already identified by an official method, the research facility may: [2.38(g)(1)(i)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue to use the identification, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▸ official USDA tag</li> <li>▸ official USDA tattoo</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

**Official USDA Tag**

- ▶ microchip if a compatible scanner is available  
NOTE: If the microchip is located in a different location from where the research facility routinely places its microchips, the location of the microchip must be noted in the animal's record.
- replace the identification with its own tag, tattoo, collar, or microchip.

If a research facility uses the official tag, tattoo, or microchip on the dog/cat at the time it was acquired, the official identification numbers must be listed in the records of:

[2.38(g)(3)]

- purchase
- acquisition
- sale
- disposal

If a research facility chooses to use an official USDA tag for identification of its dogs or cats, the tag must meet the following requirements:

*Construction* [2.38(g)(4)]

An official USDA tag may be made of:

- durable plastic
- durable alloy, such as:
  - ▶ brass
  - ▶ bronze
  - ▶ steel
- aluminum of a sufficient thickness to assure the tag is durable and legible

*Size and Shape* [2.38(g)(4)]

The tag must be one of the following shapes:

- circular-not less than 1¼ inches in diameter
- oblong and flat-not less than 2 inches by ¾ inch AND riveted to an acceptable collar

*Contents* [2.38(g)(5)]

Each tag must have the following information embossed or stamped on it:

- the letters “USDA” [2.38(g)(5)(i)]
- research facility’s registration number which consists of: [2.38(g)(5)(ii)]
  - ▶ the two digit State or territory identification code (see State/Territory Codes on page 12.6.8)
  - ▶ the letter “R” for a registered facility
  - ▶ the four digit number assigned to the facility
- number identifying the dog or cat [2.38(g)(5)(iii)]

*Tag Numbers* [2.38(g)(6)]

Official identification tag numbers must be:

- consecutive and non-repetitive
- applied to the dogs/cats in as close to consecutive numerical order as possible

A tag number must **not** be used:

- to identify more than one dog or cat.
- within a 5-year period following its previous use  
For example, if dog #5 died on January 1, 2000, the identification #5 must not be used on another dog or cat until after January 1, 2005.

*Acquisition of Tags* [2.38(g)(7)]

If the research facility chooses to use official tags, it must obtain the tags at its own expense. (see “List of Commercial Tag Manufacturers” on page 12.6.9)

*Lost/Destroyed/Illegible Tags*

If an official tag is *lost*, the research facility must try to find the tag and: [2.38(g)(8)]

- if found, reapply the tag
- if not found:
  - ▶ affix a new tag to the animal, and
  - ▶ record the new ID number on the official records

If a tag is *destroyed or becomes illegible*, the research facility must:

- affix a new tag to the animal, and
- record the new ID number on the official records
- keep the old tag: [2.38(g)(11)]
  - for a period of one year from the date of its removal from the animal, OR
  - for longer than one year if requested by an APHIS official

*Tags on Dogs/Cats when Acquired*

If a dog or cat arrives at the research facility wearing an official tag, the research facility may: [2.38(g)(9)]

- use the official tag on the animal, or
- replace the tag with its own tag, tattoo, collar or microchip

If the official tag is removed, it must be retained: [2.38(g)(11)]

- for a period of one year from the date of its removal from the animal, OR
- for longer than one year if requested by an APHIS official

*Tags from Dead Dogs/Cats*

If a dog/cat is euthanized or dies from other causes, the research facility must: [2.38(g)(10)]

- remove the tag
- retain the tag: [2.38(g)(11)]
  - for a period of one year from the date of its removal from the animal OR
  - for longer than one year if requested by an APHIS official
- dispose of the tag after the required retention period [2.38(g)(12)]

NOTE: The ID number may be reused after 5-years from the date of the death of the animal.

**Official USDA Tattoo**

*Collars Used to Affix Official Tags to the Dog/Cat*

Collars must be made of materials which will not injure the animals and are generally acceptable to pet owners.

Examples of acceptable materials for collars include, but are not limited to:

- leather
- plastic
- metal chains with smooth even-sized links

Examples of unacceptable materials for collars include, but are not limited to:

- wire
- elastic
- sharp metal
- any material that would cause injury or discomfort to the dog/cat

A research facility may choose to use the official USDA tattoo affixed to a dog or cat when it was received.  
[2.38(g)(1)(ii)]

The official tattoo must be listed on all the dog or cat's acquisition and disposition records. [2.38(g)(1) & (2)]

**Microchip**

*Approval [Policy #13]*

The research facility must request and receive approval to use a microchip implant from its Animal Care inspector or appropriate Regional Office.

The research facility should complete a "Request to Use Microchipping as a Method of Identification" sheet (see page 12.6.10) with the following information:

- manufacturer and/or model of the microchip and reader
  - location of the microchip on the animals
- Note: The placement must be consistent from animal to animal.

**Other Forms of  
Identification**

- an assurance that the following requirements will be met:
  - the microchip scanner must be readily available to the APHIS representative
  - animal identification records must indicate the microchip number, location on the animal, and the name of the microchip manufacturer
  - any animal with a microchip that goes to another USDA registrant or licensee must have an official tag/tattoo if a compatible scanner is not available at the receiving facility

The Request sheet should be submitted to the appropriate Animal Care inspector or Regional Office.

If you (the inspector) are approving the microchip request, you must:

- review the Request sheet for accuracy and completeness of information
- sign and date the sheet
- send the original sheet to the Regional Office
- give a copy of the signed sheet to the research facility

A research facility can develop its own identification system. [2.38(g)(1)(ii)]

*Forms*

The forms of identification which may be used by a research facility are: [2.38(g)(1)(ii)]

- tag
- tattoo
- collar
- microchip [Policy #13]

NOTE: A cage card or a tag on the primary enclosure is not an acceptable form of routine identification.

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*Content*

Each dog or cat must be identified with a unique identification, such as:

- a number or numbers
- a letter or combination of letters
- a combination of letters and numbers

The individual dog/cat must be traceable through the records.

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