

REAL SIMPLE

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Pets

- Make sure your pet is properly tagged and licensed. And consider an ID microchip, suggests Ruth Goldstein of the ASPCA. This tiny metal chip is injected between your pet's shoulder blades. Animal-control authorities routinely scan lost animals for chips.
- "Use a standard leash, not a retractable one," says Seth Edelstein, owner of New York City dog-walking service Walkee Doggie. The small plastic handle of a retractable leash is harder to hold on to if your dog bolts.