

"ASK Nanny Fran" Article
Tropical Breeze - September 2004

Question: What is DART?

Answer: DART is Disaster Animal Response Team. This group trains volunteers to go into ravaged areas like Punta Gorda to rescue animals. I just recently sat through a presentation from this fine organization. I saw video footage of animals wandering lost and injured through the wreckage of Andrew. I cried and cried. THEN, I heard stories from volunteers who were actually there. I was even more heart broken and cried even more. MASH units were set up to medically help the injured. Kennels were set up to house them. But I can tell you, many owners could not be located because the animals had no identification. Microchipping is a MUST DO if you want your animal returned to you. Tags and collars can and do disappear.

All of my children are microchipped. A lost black lab looks like every other black lab in the world. He or she cannot say, "My name is Barney Smith and I live at 234 Elm Street in Safety Harbor."

Just last week a petsitter friend of mine found a lost black lab puppy. No collar, no microchip...nothing. Through Laws4Paws.org we were able to find that sweetheart a brand new home within 48 hours. He is one of the very lucky animals. Only 3 to 4 percent of lost animals without proper identification are ever able to be returned to their owners. Animal control facilities report that 50% of the animals euthanized are purebred. Sad isn't it? Mutt or purebred, dog or cat..... a needless death breaks my heart. Not to mention the anguish of the owner who cannot find their best friend.

Please call me or email me for microchipping information, 727.804.5206 or 727.512.3206 or Franmutt@tampabay.rr.com.