

Handed out at Agenda Session
11-29-11



Amend Chapter 92



www.accessfayetteville.org

Proposed Microchip Ordinance Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can a microchip track or find my pet on a map?

No, the microchip is not a tracking device. Only the information you provide when you register the chip is provided to us when we call the microchip company. It is like an id tag that your pet cannot lose.

2. Why is this important/beneficial for pet owners?

If you lose your pet and someone finds it you want it to be as easy as possible for them to return the pet to you. A microchip is a form of identification that your pet cannot lose, unlike a collar or physical tag. It is standard practice at all animal shelters to scan stray pets for a microchip and most vet clinics will also do this as a courtesy to those who bring in strays to their clinic.

3. Why is this important/beneficial for the City?

Animal Services takes in over 5,000 pets a year and very few of them are actually homeless. Many of them have homes; we just don't have any way of returning them to their owner if there is no form of identification on the pet. Often people don't think to check with us when their pet goes missing. Having a pet chipped will make it much more efficient for us to return these pets to their homes. It will save the City time and money by keeping these owned pets out of our shelter or at the very least, reducing their length of stay tremendously.

4. Why do I have to register and keep my contact info current with both the City and the microchip company?

A microchip is only as good as the information connected with it. If the chip information is out of date, then it makes returning the pet very difficult, if not impossible. We want to keep the information in our software system as well as a backup in case a chip company was to go out of business. Also, storing the info on our system will eliminate the animal control officers having to call the chip company for the information; such calls can take anywhere from 2 minutes to over 10 minutes depending on the company's call volume.

5. Why are the redemption fees changing?

The pet licensing program provided strong incentive to have your pet spayed or neutered. A pet license for a sterilized pet was only \$5 as compared to \$75 for an un-sterilized pet. We wanted to target those pets that are directly contributing to the pet overpopulation issue in our community, i.e. those that are un-sterilized and running at large in the City. Redemption fees for sterilized pets will remain the same, but un-sterilized pets found running at large will be subject to higher fees with the option to have their pet sterilized at a low cost, which would then reduce the redemption fees to the same as a sterilized pet.

