

SENATOR LING LING CHANG

REPRESENTING CALIFORNIA'S 29TH SENATE DISTRICT

Senate Bill 64 – Pet microchips

Summary

SB-64 requires that all municipal animal shelters microchip any dog or cat that is either adopted or claimed by a pet owner. This will save California taxpayers funds by significantly reducing the amount of euthanized and sheltered dogs and cats.

Issue and Background

According to the American Humane Society, each year approximately 10 million pets are lost in the United States, and more than 6 million animals wind up in the nation's animal shelters. Out of the over 6 million animals that are sheltered, approximately 1.5 million sheltered dogs and cats lose their lives to euthanasia. This amounts to 171 dogs and cats every hour. In California, hundreds of thousands of sheltered dogs and cats are euthanized every year.

A significant source of the problem is animal identification and the ability to reunite these animals with their families. Only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats in shelters without identification are reunited with their owners. Ultimately this leads to hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars needlessly spent on sheltering and euthanizing pets.

Pet microchips have consistently been proven to be effective. According to the Journal of the American Veterinarian Medical Association almost three-fourths of lost, microchipped cats and dogs were located due to the presence of the microchip. Many dogs found hundreds of miles from their homes were reunited with their families due to microchips. Others were found years after they were lost through microchip technology.

While microchips are an incredibly reliable form of identification for pets, microchipping requirements vary with each California municipality.

Solution

By requiring municipal shelters to microchip sheltered dogs and cats upon adoption, SB-64 will save California taxpayers funds from being spent on euthanizing hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats across California. The provisions of SB-64 will further reduce the California animal shelter population.

Pet Microchip FAQ

How does a microchip work?

When a pet is found by an animal shelter or vet, a scanner is used to detect the pet's microchip. The scanner will provide the unique ID number associated with the chip which is linked to the owner's contact information in a database.

Collar tags are an effective means of identification only if they are in place on the animal when it becomes lost. When a pet is lost, its collar and tags might be removed or damaged.

How much is it to implant a microchip?

The price of microchipping services can be as little as \$5. Several local municipalities and non-profit organizations offer microchipping at NO COST to the owner, and other local providers include low-cost microchip resources.

Many municipal animal care facilities routinely host microchipping clinics. An owner can call the facility that services their area to see if this is offered. Also, local pet suppliers often hold monthly microchip clinics. Most, if not all, veterinarians perform this simple procedure as well.

Will the process hurt my dog or cat?

Implementing a microchip is essentially the same process as administering a vaccine. A pet may feel a little pinch, and any pain should be over very quickly. Once the microchip has been inserted the animal does not know it is there.

Are there any health risks to microchips?

There are virtually no health risks to microchipping your pet according to animal health professionals. The British Small Animal Veterinary Association maintains a database of adverse reactions to microchips. Since the database was started in 1996, over 4 million animals have been microchipped and only 391 adverse reactions have been reported. Of these reactions, migration of the microchip from its original implantation site is the most common problem reported.

Support

Social Compassion in Legislation (Sponsor)

For more information

Luigi Luciano

Office of Senator Ling Ling Chang

916-651-4029

luigi.luciano@sen.ca.gov