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EDWARD A. BOKS  
General Manager

July 23, 2007

Honorable Los Angeles City Council  
C/O Los Angeles City Clerk  
200 North Main Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At its meeting of May 14, 2007, the Board of Animal Services Commissioners (Commission) voted to request that the City Council (Council) direct the City Attorney to draft an ordinance and submit it to the Council, for approval, amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section §53.15.5, Electronic Animal Identification Device, to require mandatory microchipping of any cat or dog redeemed by an owner at the same fee as for adopted cats or dogs, and in addition to any other applicable fees or charges for owner redemptions.

Microchips are tiny enough to be injected under the skin via a hypodermic and each microchip contains a personal, one-of-a-kind identification number that associates an animal as part of a family. The personal information connected to each chip includes the animal's guardian, veterinarian's information, alternate contact and the animal's personal information. All animals admitted to an L.A. Animal Care Centers are scanned for a microchip upon arrival. If a microchip is detected, a nine-digit number will appear and we will contact the current microchip manufacturer's (AVID) 24-Hour hotline. After a quick search of the PETract database, the animal's guardian can be contacted. The general public also may contact any of our L.A. Animal Care Centers and schedule an appointment to have their companion animal injected with a microchip, at a minimal cost. Other agencies, including L.A. City Bureau of Sanitation, also have microchip scanners that are used to identify a pet's owner.

Section 53.15.5 of the Municipal Code addresses Electronic Animal Identification Devices, commonly referred to as microchips.

*The Department of Animal Services shall implant each dog and cat adopted out of the Department's shelters with an Electronic Animal Identification Device approved and provided by the Department. The fee for the implanted device shall be \$15.00, to be paid by the person adopting the dog or cat in addition to any other adoption related fee.*

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Visit our website at [www.LAAnimalServices.com](http://www.LAAnimalServices.com)

*Any owner of a dog or a cat may have an Electronic Animal Identification Device provided and implanted by the Department in the dog or cat. The fee for such implanted device shall be \$25.00.*

Requiring implantation of microchips for cats and dogs which are redeemed by owners has several benefits for the companion animal and family:

- An increase in pet-owner reunifications, and attendant decrease in euthanasia.
- Program would be advertised as a means of saving pets and increasing pet-owner reunifications.
- Funds generated in excess of purchasing costs are transferred annually to the General Fund, offsetting cost of labor to order, track, register, and implant microchips.

Because LAMC 53.15.5 specifies which animals are microchipped and for what price, an ordinance is required to modify the Code with this proposal. Upon adoption of an ordinance by the City Council and concurrence of the Mayor, the Department will immediately notify all staff responsible for processing redemptions to ensure prompt implementation.

Microchips with registration costs included are approximately \$9.00 each on the existing City Contract. The cost to the Department of collecting and processing the fee for this program will be minimal, since the fee will be assessed at the same time as other fees are being processed. The following is a historical overview of the potential revenue that would have been derived from cat redemptions and from dog redemptions, had mandatory microchipping been required for these animals during the period of 2004-2006.

<b>Dog-Owner Reunifications from Shelters</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Reunifications</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Potential Revenue</b>
2004	4,351	\$15	\$62,265
2005	4,543	\$15	\$68,145
2006	4,030	\$15	\$60,450

<b>Cat-Owner Reunifications from Shelters</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Reunifications</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Potential Revenue</b>
2004	270	\$15	\$1,350
2005	573	\$15	\$2,865
2006	289	\$15	\$1,445

Honorable Los Angeles City Council  
Mandatory Microchipping of Cats And Dogs  
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Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions or require additional information, please have your staff contact Ms. Linda Barth, Assistant General Manager, at (213) 482-9558 or Mr. Ross Pool, Management Analyst II, at (213) 482-9501.

Sincerely,



Edward A. Boks  
General Manager

EB:LB:RP

cc: Dov Lesel, Deputy City Attorney  
Staci Sosa, CAO  
Linda Barth  
Ross Pool  
File