



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Lancaster Approves Citywide Mandatory Microchip Ordinance

Lancaster, TX – The Lancaster City Council recently approved a citywide mandatory microchipping ordinance requiring all cats and dogs, 4 months and older, to be microchipped. The ordinance aims to reduce the number of loose dogs within the city limits.

The new ordinance also reduces the existing microchip fee of \$25.00 to \$15.00 per animal and offers a three (3) month grace period to allow pet owners to come into compliance. Microchipping services are provided on a first come first served basis at the Lancaster Animal Shelter, located at 690 E. Main St., Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Microchips greatly increase the chances pets will be reunited with their owner if they are lost or stolen. According to the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, only about 22% of lost dogs that entered the animal shelters were reunited with their families, but the return-to-owner rate for microchipped dogs was over 52% (a 136% increase).

Microchipping is a simple procedure. A veterinarian or trained staff simply injects a microchip for pets, about the size of a grain of rice, beneath the surface of your pet's skin between the shoulder blades. The process is similar to a routine shot, takes only a few seconds, and your pet will not react any more than he would to a vaccination. No anesthesia is required. It is designed to last your pet's entire lifetime. Once enrolled, it links to a permanent record of your information – which is important to keep up-to-date so you can be reached when your lost pet is found. Your microchip comes with a personal listing in our lost pet database, and this translates to anytime/anywhere pet recovery services.

The new ordinance will go into effect Monday, February 19, 2018.

The City of Lancaster invites you to “like” the City on [Facebook.com/CityofLancasterTX](https://www.facebook.com/CityofLancasterTX), follow us at [Twitter.com/Lancaster_TX](https://twitter.com/Lancaster_TX) or register for weekly e-mail alerts regarding upcoming events on our website at www.lancaster-tx.com by clicking on “Notify Me”.

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