

Lee County Holds Last Microchip ID Clinic for 2009

Fort Myers, Florida, 11/6/09—Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) will hold a Pet Microchip ID Clinic for dogs and cats on November 21, 2009 from noon to 2:00 pm at the agency's shelter, 5600 Banner Drive, in Fort Myers. Beginning January 2010 pets that are both microchipped and sterilized will qualify for reduced license fees. The cost of the microchip ID is just \$15 or \$5 with proof of public assistance. Cash will be the only method of payment at the clinic.

A microchip ID is a small computer chip implanted by injection under the pet's skin between the shoulder blades. When scanned, the chip's unique number will identify the owner. Because microchips cannot be removed or lost like collars and tags they are the best means to insure your pet will be returned if lost.

Owners should check with their regular veterinarian about having their pets sterilized and microchipped or have their pet microchipped at the clinic offered by LCDAS on November 21st. LCDAS will also hold monthly microchip clinics January through April 2010.

While microchips and sterilization are not required for pets, the county hopes to encourage more pet owners to do both by offering discounted license fees for pets that are. Just like sterilization reduces the number of pets that enter shelters, microchips reduce the amount of time pets spend in shelters because their owners can be immediately identified. Only 13% of pets entering Lee County's shelter are claimed by owners due to lack of identification. Microchips cannot only save lives but also taxpayer dollars that would be spent caring for these pets during their stay.

For more information about pet license fees, dates for additional microchip clinics, or pet sterilization call Lee County Domestic Animal Services at (239) 533-7387 (LEE-PETS) or visit the agency's website at www.LeeLostPets.com.