

Pet Microchip ID Clinics for Saturdays Cancelled Lee County to Offer Microchipping on Fridays

Fort Myers, Florida, 1/5/10—Pet Microchip ID Clinics to be held January 9, February 6, March 13, and April 10 at Lee County Animal Services' (LCDAS) shelter have been cancelled. Animal Services' staff veterinarian, Peter Davis, DVM, will be available on Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm beginning January 15 to provide an opportunity for pet owners to have their dogs and cats implanted with a Microchip ID. Microchip IDs will be offered for just \$15 or \$5 with proof of public assistance.

This service is being provided by LCDAS to give pet owners the option of having their pets microchipped in order to qualify for reduced pet license fees. Prior to January 1, 2010 pets were only required to be sterilized for the reduced fee. A list of private veterinarians and low-cost clinics is available online at www.LeeLostPets.com for anyone who wants their pets sterilized and microchipped. All pet owners, therefore, have affordable options for both procedures.

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.

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, 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.