

DRAFT

ORDINANCE NO. 630.10

An ordinance amending Title 6 - Animals, to establish a mandatory microchip identification program for dogs and cats.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside ordains as follows:

SECTION 6.08.010. Section 6.08.010 is hereby added to read as follows:

“Custodian” is any person who intentionally provides care or sustenance for a dog or cat on behalf of another, or represents the interests of the owner.

“Department” means the Department of Animal Services and its authorized agencies.

“Owner” is any person who intentionally provides care or sustenance for a dog or cat for any period exceeding a total of thirty days.

Chapter 6.08, Dogs and Cats, is hereby amended to add “Mandatory Microchipping of Dogs and Cats” to read as follows:

Mandatory Microchipping of Dogs and Cats

Sections:

- 6.08.021 Mandatory microchipping of dogs and cats required
- 6.08.022 Exception to microchipping requirement
- 6.08.023 Transfer, sale of dogs and cats
- 6.08.024 Impoundment of a non-microchipped dog or cat.
- 6.08.025 Allocation of fees and fines collected.

6.08.021 Mandatory Microchipping of Dogs and Cats Required.

All dogs and cats over the age of four months must be implanted with an identifying microchip. The owner or custodian is required to provide the microchip number to the Department, and shall notify the Department and the national registry applicable to the implanted chip of any change of ownership of the dog or cat, or any change of address or telephone number. Nothing in this section supersedes, eliminates, or alters the license requirements of sections 6.08.020 and 6.08.170.

6.08.022 Exception to Microchipping Requirement.

The owner or custodian of a dog or cat which is unable to be implanted with the microchip identification without a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily injury due to the health conditions of the animal, must obtain written confirmation of that fact from a California licensed veterinarian. The written confirmation must also state the date by which the dog or cat may be safely implanted with an identifying microchip, if any.

6.08.023 Transfer, sale of dogs and cats.

A. An owner or custodian who offers any dog or cat for sale, trade, or adoption must provide the microchip identification number and the valid dog license number, as applicable, with the offer of sale, trade or adoption. The license and microchip numbers must appear on a document transferring the dog to the new owner. In the case of cats, only the microchip number is required. The owner or custodian shall also advise the Department of the name and address of the new owner or custodian in accordance with section 6.08.021.

B. When a puppy or kitten under the age of four months implanted with microchip identification is sold or otherwise transferred to another person, the owner or custodian shall advise the Department of the name and address of the new owner or custodian, and the microchip number of the puppy or kitten within ten days after the transfer.

6.08.024 Impoundment of a non-microchipped dog or cat.

A. When a dog or cat is impounded and it is without microchip identification, the owner or custodian may reclaim the dog or cat when one of the following occurs:

1. The dog or cat is implanted with a Department of Animal Services microchip by a Department registered veterinarian technician or veterinarian at the expense of the owner or custodian. Such expense may include additional fees due to extraordinary care required;

2. The dog or cat is implanted with a Department approved microchip by another Department approved veterinarian. The owner or custodian may arrange for another Department approved veterinarian to perform the implant, and shall pay to the Department the cost to deliver the dog or cat to the chosen veterinarian. The cost to deliver the dog or cat shall be based on the Department's hourly rate established by the Auditor-Controller, billed in minimum one hour increments. The veterinarian shall complete and return to the Department within ten days, a statement confirming that the microchip has been implanted, provide the Department with the number and shall release the dog or cat to the owner or custodian only after the procedure is complete; or,

3. At the discretion of the Director of Animal Services, the dog or cat may be released to the owner or custodian if he or she signs a statement under penalty of perjury, representing that the dog or cat will be implanted with a microchip and that he or she will submit a statement within ten days, signed by a California licensed veterinarian, confirming that the dog or cat has been so implanted and provide the microchip number to the Department.

6.08.025 Allocation of fees and fines collected.

All costs and fines collected under this part and the fees collected under Section 6.08.024 shall be paid to the Department for the purpose of defraying the cost of the implementation and enforcement of this program.

The provisions of this ordinance shall not become operative until January 1, 2007.