

March 12, 2019

The Honorable Ling Ling Chang
State Capitol, Room 4062
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 64 (Chang): Dogs and cats: microchip implants – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Chang:

Thank you for introducing this important legislation which requires that all municipal animal shelters microchip any dog or cat that is either adopted or claimed by a pet owner.

According to the American Humane Society, each year approximately 10 million pets are lost in the United States, and more than 6 million animals wind up in the nation's animal shelters. Out of the over 6 million animals that are sheltered, approximately 1.5 million sheltered dogs and cats lose their lives to euthanasia. This amounts to 171 dogs and cats every hour. In California, hundreds of thousands of sheltered dogs and cats are euthanized every year.

A significant source of the problem is animal identification and the ability to reunite these animals with their families. Only 15% of dogs and 2% of cats in shelters without identification are reunited with their owners. Ultimately this leads to hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars needlessly spent on sheltering and euthanizing pets.

Pet microchips have consistently been proven to be effective. According to the Journal of the American Veterinarian Medical Association almost three-fourths of lost, microchipped cats and dogs were located due to the presence of the microchip. Many dogs found hundreds of miles from their homes were reunited with their families due to microchips. Others were found years after they were lost through microchip technology.

While microchips are an incredibly reliable form of identification for pets, microchipping requirements vary with each California municipality. By requiring municipal shelters to microchip sheltered dogs and cats upon adoption or reclamation, SB-64 will save California taxpayers funds from being spent on euthanizing hundreds of thousands of dogs and cats across California while reducing shelter populations. I am grateful to Senator Chang for authoring this important legislation and urge all of your California colleagues in the legislature to vote yes on SB 64!

Sincerely,