

MOTION

New technological advances are helping reunite lost pets with their owners. A tiny microchip can be implanted into an animal that contains the owner's contact information. This information is retrieved with a scanner that reads the frequency emitted by the microchip. Both animal shelters and veterinarians are increasingly relying on microchips to identify animals and their owners.

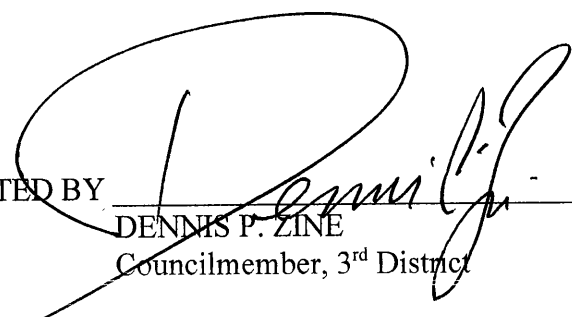
Despite its usefulness, there are some shortcomings to the current system of microchipping. The lack of uniform standards makes it difficult to take full advantage of the technology. There are many brands of chips and they work on a variety of frequencies, ranging from 125 to 134.2 kilohertz. Each company also makes its own scanners and not every scanner is designed to read other frequencies. As a result, pet owners who rely on the technology cannot be assured that their animals will be identified. The United States Humane Society and the American Veterinarian Medical Association have issued warnings that the system needs changes.

Among those changes are implementing a standard frequency or ensuring that all scanners can read every frequency. Congress has called on the United States Department of Agriculture to require chips with universal frequencies. However, the agency can only regulate breeders and animal research facilities. It does not have authority over what happens with individually owned pets. Therefore, this issue must be explored further by local agencies.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Animal Services Department report back to Council on the types of microchip equipment it uses, which frequencies can be read by the equipment, the success rate of microchips in reuniting pets and owners, and a comparison of how other animal control agencies are using the technology.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Animal Services Department report back to Council on the estimated costs, and any other relevant factors, to implement the following: equipping all animal shelters with scanners that read universal frequencies and providing microchips that use a universal frequency

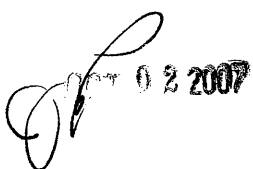
PRESENTED BY


DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY



JD


OCT 02 2007

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