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Low-cost microchip clinics for cats and dogs scheduled for first Saturday of the month

McHENRY COUNTY — To ensure McHenry County pets can find their way home if they become lost, the McHenry County Department of Health will begin holding low-cost microchip clinics on the first Saturday of each month. All pets over 4 months old must be up to date on their rabies vaccination to receive a microchip.

Microchips are great for permanent, tamper-proof identification. Visible tags are the first line of identification for animals, but they may wear or fall off. Unlike traditional ID tags, permanent microchips can contain owner contact and pet information, and most vets and shelters can easily scan them.

Statistics show that one in three pets will become lost at some point during their lives, but cats and dogs with registered microchips with up-to-date owner contact information are much more likely to experience reunification with their families, according to the American Veterinary Medical Association.

“Our primary focus when we receive a stray is to have a happy reunion with its family, but that is not always possible,” said Maryellen Howell, Director of the McHenry County Department of Health’s Animal Control. “But pets that have lost their way home and are microchipped with their family’s current contact information stand a better chance of being returned. Our hope is to reunite all lost pets with their families, and one of the best tools we have to make that happen is microchips.”

Beginning now, McHenry County residents can begin to schedule their beloved family pet’s microchip appointment, being held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 5, at the McHenry County Animal Control and Adoption Center, 100 N. Virginia Street in Crystal Lake. Interested pet owners should call (815) 459-6222 to schedule their pet’s appointment.

The cost of a microchip is \$10 per pet. Senior citizens will receive a discounted fee of \$5 per pet. In honor of Veteran’s Day, there is no fee for the pets of McHenry County veterans. To receive the discounted rate or service for free, proof of eligibility will be requested when scheduling an appointment. Payment will be accepted via cash only.

This is a drive-thru event. Attendees are asked to remain in their vehicles during their appointments and should keep all dogs on leashes and cats in carriers. Please do not bring animals that are in heat. Owners are responsible for muzzling dogs that require one.

Future microchip clinic dates and registration information will be announced on MCDH's website, MCDH.info. For more information, please visit bit.ly/MCDHAnimalControl.

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