Harry L. Berry
Judge/Executive

Animal Shelter Introduces Microchip Services

Eight million animals end up in shelters every year. Unfortunately, owners reclaim 15 to 20% of the dogs. In Hardin County, owners reclaim 15% of the dogs in our shelter.

Because of these statistics, our County Animal Shelter will soon introduce microchip services for all adopted pets.

Very soon, we will begin implanting a microchip in every animal adopted from our county animal shelter to assist in locating the owner, if the pet is lost

WHAT IS A MICROCHIP?

It is a small, electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder about the size of a grain of rice. A needle inserts the chip under the animal's skin, usually between the shoulder blades. A scanner passed over the area activates the chip by emitting radio waves. The chip transmits the identification number and the phone number of the animal registry to the scanner. With this number, our staff can contact the pet owner. The microchip is not a GPS device and cannot track your animal if it gets lost.

HOW IT WORKS

When we pick up a dog, we will scan the dog for a microchip. This will give us the animal identification number and the phone number of the registry for the particular brand of chip. With this information, we will be able to contact the owner.

Research reveals the dog with a microchip has a 51.2% chance to be reunited with their owner, a near 30% increase over a dog without a microchip.

Hardin County Statistics

- 2,111 dogs were picked up
- 307 were returned to owner
- 1,157 were adopted
- 444 sent to rescues

CHIPS DO NOT REPLACE TAGS

A microchip does not replace a license, rabies, or identification tags. We still require a dog license and a rabies tag on the dog's collar. An identification tag with your phone number is very helpful, as you cannot assume the person who finds your pet will know anything about microchips.

No identification system can keep your pet from being hit by a car or stolen. It is important not to let your pet run loose.

Stop by the Hardin County Animal Shelter at 220 Peterson Drive in Elizabethtown or call (270) 769-3428 for more information.