



# WASHOE COUNTY

"Dedicated To Excellence in Public Service"

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CM/ACM KS  
Finance LC

DA NA  
Risk Mgt. NA  
HR NA  
Grant NA MS

## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: November 10, 2015

**DATE:** October 21, 2015  
**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Robert Smith, Animal Services Manager  
Phone: 353-8945; email: [rasmith@washoecounty.us](mailto:rasmith@washoecounty.us)  
**THROUGH:** Shyanne Schull, Animal Services Director  
**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to approve indefinitely the free microchip program for the pets of Washoe County residents. Expenditures for the continued program will be covered under Animal Services budget authority. Continuation of this program will assist in the safe return of animals to their owners and to allow Animal Services to redirect funds to newly created community and educational outreach programs. (All Commission Districts.)

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### SUMMARY

The Microchip Campaign to provide free microchips to pets from January 28, 2013 to February 1, 2014 was very successful and Animal Services obtained approval to continue this county-wide program for all Washoe County residents through January 31, 2016.

**County priority/goals:** Safe, secure and healthy communities.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

On November 13, 2012, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved a campaign to waive microchip fees for Washoe County residents starting January 28, 2013.

On February 11, 2014, the BCC approved a continuance of the campaign to waive microchip fees for Washoe County residents for an additional two years.

### BACKGROUND

Each year, more than 10 million pets become separated from their owners, costing shelters valuable cage space, time and insurmountable financial resources to care for them. Without identification, many pets are never reunited with their owners.

On January 28, 2013 Animal Services began a year-long Microchip Campaign. The cost for the microchips to start this campaign was \$33,500.00. From January 28, 2013 to

AGENDA ITEM # 6C5

October 15, 2015, 13,835 pets were chipped (12,427 dogs and 1,377 cats) at a cost of \$69,175.

During this three-year campaign, 8,228 pets were identified by Animal Services staff to have microchips which facilitated a quick return/notification to their owners which reduced stress on the pet owners and their pets.

The initial impound of an animal by an Officer, including the intake process and first day's housing cost is \$152.28 per animal, with each additional day's housing cost at \$91.26 per animal.

By having the ability to identify owners through the microchip number, Officers have been able to return 3,540 animals in the field and avoid the costly process of impounding an animal. By avoiding the first day's housing cost, Animal Services has recognized an approximate savings value of \$323,060 over the last three years.

When a stray animal has been brought to the shelter by a citizen and the animal has been microchipped, Shelter staff has been able to quickly notify the owners of 4,007 animals. This has recognized an approximate savings value of \$1,097,036 over the last three years.

Animal Services, by quickly identifying animal owners through a microchip, has recognized an approximate total savings value of \$1,420,096 over the last three years.

This proactive and innovative approach to help keep pets safely at home, to reduce operational costs and euthanasia rates, allows Animal Services to redirect funds to our newly created community and educational outreach programs. Washoe County Regional Animal Services recommends continuing the free microchip campaign indefinitely as a valuable resource to the community.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Total fiscal impact for Animal Services to purchase supplies as of October 15, 2015 for this three-year free microchip campaign is \$69,175 (which is \$5.00 per microchip).

Annual projected supplies cost to continue the program is \$14,000 to \$17,000, which can be covered within budget authority.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners approve indefinitely the free microchip program for the pets of Washoe County residents. Expenditures for the continued program will be covered under Animal Services budget authority. Continuation of this program will assist in the safe return of animals to their owners and to allow Animal Services to redirect funds to newly created community and educational outreach programs.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:

Move to approve indefinitely the free microchip program for the pets of Washoe County residents. Expenditures for the continued program will be covered under Animal Services budget authority. Continuation of this program will assist in the safe return of animals to their owners and to allow Animal Services to redirect funds to newly created community and educational outreach programs.

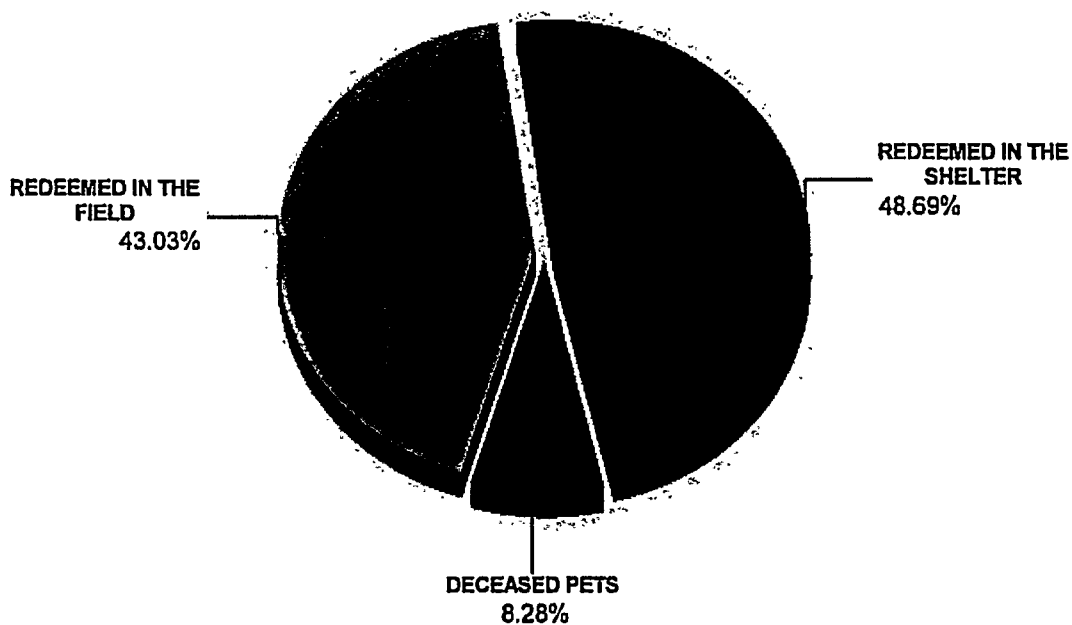


# WASHOE COUNTY REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES

## REDEEMED AND DECEASED CATS AND DOGS IMPOUNDED W/MICROCHIP FROM 01/28/13 TO 10/15/15

<u>OUTCOMES</u>	WITH ID				
	FY 12 - 13	FY 13 - 14	FY 14 - 15	FY 15 - 16	Total
<b>Total</b>	1,205	2,717	3,312	994	8,228
DECEASED PETS	93	232	253	103	681
REDEEMED IN THE FIELD	522	1,196	1,441	381	3,540
REDEEMED IN THE SHELTER	590	1,289	1,618	510	4,007

**Redeemed and Deceased Pets**



**Average Cost for an animal from the time it enters the facility  
or the time it is picked up by an Officer until it is released from the facility**

Reporting Period 1/28/13 to 10/15/15

**Field Costs**

Average Cost for Field Officer per Call for Service	\$	61.02
Daily Housing Cost per Animal	\$	91.26
Initial impound of an animal by an Officer, including the intake process and first day's housing cost	\$	152.28
 # Animals returned in the field by an Officer due to microchip		 3,540
By avoiding the first day's housing cost, Animal Services has recognized an Approximate Savings Value over the last 3 years (Daily Housing Cost per Animal x # Animals returned in the field by an Officer due to microchip)	\$	323,060.40

**Shelter Costs**

# Stray Animals brought into shelter that are microchipped		4,007
Cost for Non-Microchipped Animal (Average stay in shelter is 5 days)	\$	456.30
Cost for Microchipped Animal (Average stay at shelter is 2 days)	\$	182.52
3 Days Value Savings	\$	273.78
By an animal being microchipped, Animal Services has recognized an Approximate Total Savings Value over the last 3 years (# Stray Animals brought into shelter that are microchipped x 3 days Value Savings)	\$	1,097,036.46

<b>Total Savings Value</b>		
<b>Microchipped Animals returned to owners over the last 3 years</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,420,096.86</b>