



ORDINANCE NO. 789

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 400 TO ALLOW MICROCHIPPING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO HAVING CITY LICENSES FOR DOGS AND CATS; AMENDING ORDINANCE 679 TO CHANGE ANIMAL LICENSING FEE; REQUIRING ALL DOGS OR CATS THAT ARE ADOPTED OR RECLAIMED TO BE MICROCHIPPED OR LICENSED; SETTING THE PRICE OF MICROCHIPPING AND FINES FOR FAILURE TO MICROCHIP OR LICENSE DOGS OR CATS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

WHEREAS, The American Humane Association estimates that 1 out of every 3 pets becomes lost at some point in their lifetimes, and, according to the Coalition for Reuniting Pets and Families, less than 23% of lost pets in the United States are reunited with their owners; and

WHEREAS, pets that are microchipped with their owner's contact information stand a much higher chance of being reunited with their owners; and

WHEREAS, many pets that have been lost for long periods of time or found hundreds of miles away from their homes have been reunited with their families due to microchip technology; and

WHEREAS, requiring all dogs and cats at shelters to be microchipped before they are adopted by a new owner or reclaimed by a current owner will increase the likelihood of pets being reunited with their owners quickly and efficiently;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LONOKE, ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1:

SECTION 2 OF ORDINANCE NO. 400 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

All dogs or cats four months or older and being kept within the corporate limits of this city must be licensed by the City of Lonoke annually. Prior to licensing, all animals required to do so by state code shall be vaccinated against rabies. Upon presentation of a complete rabies vaccination certificate from a licensed veterinarian, and payment of the necessary license fee to the City of Lonoke, it shall be the duty of the City of Lonoke Animal Control to furnish the owner of the animal with a metal city license tag. Every licensed animal covered by the ordinance must have and wear a collar of such type that the city license tag may be firmly attached to the collar. The

tag when issued shall at all times be securely attached to the animal's collar or harness, and failure to keep such tag on the collar or harness shall be unlawful. If tags have been lost, proof must be shown that city tags have been purchased and vaccination has been obtained, and a replacement tag must be immediately purchased from the City of Lonoke at additional cost to the owner. City tags are not transferable from one animal to another.

A. If a dog or cat is implanted with a registered microchip, yearly registration tags from the City of Lonoke are no longer required; however, all periodic rabies shots must still be obtained and maintained as current.

1. If a dog or cat is microchipped by others, owners must provide proof to the City of Lonoke Animal Control that the microchip has been registered to the owners' correct addresses and phone numbers before city license tags are no longer required for said animal.

SECTION 2: SECTION 4.1 OF ORDINANCE 679 IS AMENDED AS FOLLOWS:

Part 1. From the date of the passage of this ordinance and forward, the City shall charge a \$10.00 yearly licensing fee for dogs and cats. Dogs or cats with a registered microchip are exempt from the yearly licensing fee.

Part 2. All other remaining provisions of Ordinances No. 679 which are not in conflict with this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 2. MICROCHIPPING

A. Except as provided in this subdivision, the City of Lonoke Animal Control shall not release a dog or cat to an owner seeking to reclaim it, or adopt out a dog or cat to a new owner, unless one of the following conditions is met:

1. The dog or cat is currently microchipped with current contact information on the owner reclaiming the dog or cat or new owner receiving the dog or cat, as applicable. All applicable requirements for the release of the animal, including but not limited to payment of reclaim/adoption fees must be satisfied.

2. When an impounded dog or cat does not have microchip identification, in addition to satisfying applicable requirements for the release of the animal, including but not limited to payment of reclaim/adoption fees, the owner shall have the dog or cat implanted with a registered microchip by the City of Lonoke Animal Control or by a veterinarian (or other person qualified to implant microchips in cats or dogs) selected by the owner.

3. The cost of microchipping and registering shall be borne by the new owner or owner reclaiming the dog or cat.

4. If a dog or cat is microchipped by others, owners must provide proof to the City of Lonoke Animal Control that the microchip has been registered to their correct address and phone numbers before tags are no longer required for said animal.

5. If the owner of a reclaimed dog or cat chooses to not have the animal microchipped, the owner must purchase a current license tag from the City of Lonoke before the animal may be released.

B. Any resident of the City of Lonoke may have their dog or cat implanted with a registered microchip by the City of Lonoke Animal Control.

SECTION 3. Cost and Proof of Microchipping.

- A. The City of Lonoke shall charge \$25.00 to microchip the dog or cat.
 - 1. If the owner changes addresses or phone numbers within two (2) years of microchipping by the City of Lonoke Animal Control, this information may be updated at the City of Lonoke Animal Control at no charge. Additional fees to update the address or phone number with the microchipping database company may apply, for which the owner is responsible. A \$5.00 fee will be charged after two (2) years.
- B. If the owner elects to have the dog or cat microchipped by others, the following conditions must be met:
 - 1. The owner must provide proof of microchipping within 10 days of reclaim/adoption and also proof that the dog's or cat's microchip number is registered with a microchip registry company.
 - 2. All costs of microchipping and registration shall be borne by the new owner or owner reclaiming the dog or cat.

SECTION 4. Exceptions.

- A. The City of Lonoke Animal Control Officer may make an exception to the microchipping requirement for a dog or cat with a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily injury if implanted with the microchip identification due to the health conditions of the animal. To qualify for such an exception, the owner must obtain written confirmation of that fact from a licensed veterinarian. If the dog or cat can be safely implanted with an identifying microchip at a later date, that date must be stated in the written confirmation.
- B. Microchipping of a dog or cat under the age of four months may be delayed until the dog or cat is four months old. The dog or cat may be returned to the City of Lonoke Animal Control for microchipping at that age at the costs set forth herein, or the owner may elect to have the dog or cat microchipped by others. The owner must provide proof of microchipping and registration. Violation of this provision are subject to the fines stated in Section 5.

SECTION 5. Penalties and Fines.


If proof of microchipping is not provided to the City of Lonoke Animal Control within 10 days, the owner may be subject to any or all of the following penalties:

- A. The City of Lonoke Animal Control may reclaim the dog or cat to microchip the animal with all costs of the reclaiming and microchipping to be borne by the owner. This may include any additional reclaiming fees.
- B. The City of Lonoke Animal Control may reclaim an adopted dog or cat to be adopted by others if the owner refuses to have the animal microchipped.
- C. Violation of this section is subject to a fine of fifty dollars (\$50).

SECTION 6. Emergency Clause

Because the regulation of dogs and cats living in the City is necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health, safety and welfare, an emergency is hereby declared, and this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage.

PASSED THIS 11th DAY OF APRIL, 2022.



HENRY F. "TRAE" REED, MAYOR

ATTEST:



CITY CLERK