

FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
 BY: *Jenny Hara* 12/5/08  
 DATE

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
 COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Community Health Agency/Department of Animal Services

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** Ordinance No. 630.12 amending Ordinance No. 630.11 for the Department of Animal Services

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Introduce and set for public hearing the adoption of Ordinance No. 630.12 amending Ordinance No. 630.11, an Ordinance of the County of Riverside Relating to Dogs and Cats, to include provisions of mandatory microchipping and mandatory spaying/neutering;
- 2) Authorize the Clerk of the Board to place an advertisement for the public hearing in the appropriate local publications; and
- 3) Upon the close of the Public Hearing, adopt Ordinance No. 630.12.

**BACKGROUND:** It is estimated that there are two million dogs and cats in Riverside County. Consequently, the Department of Animal Services has been overwhelmed with dogs and cats on a daily basis. Many of these pets are either impounded by our Animal Control Officers or presented to the shelters by their owners and citizen Samaritans. (cont'd)

FISCAL PROCEDURES APPROVED  
 ROBERT E. BYRIS, AUDITOR-CONTROLLER  
 BY: *Michael G. Alexander*  
 MICHAEL G. ALEXANDER  
 Departmental Concurrence

*Robert Miller*

Robert Miller, Director of Animal Services

<b>FINANCIAL DATA</b>	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	N/A	In Current Year Budget:	Yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$ 0	Budget Adjustment:	No
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$ 0	For Fiscal Year:	08/09

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS:</b> Contract revenue and department budget	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	

**C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION:**

**APPROVE**

BY: *Debra Cournoyer*  
 Debra Cournoyer

County Executive Office Signature

Consent     Policy  
 Consent     Policy

Dept's Recomm.:  
 Per Exec. Ofc.:

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: All

Agenda Number:

3.16

**BACKGROUND (continued):**

The Department estimates that more than 33,000 animals will be housed in County shelters this coming year with an average daily shelter count in excess of 1200 animals. Despite great strides to increase the adoption and redemption rates, there remain very few post-impound strategies capable of dealing with this number of apparently unwanted pets. In February 2006, the Department of Animal Services ("Department") adopted the policy that healthy, adoptable animals will no longer be euthanized. As the County's pet population continues to grow, there is simply not enough shelter space to house this surplus. The Department's solution is to decrease the population of unwanted pets through a multi-pronged approach. The revisions included in Ordinance No. 630.12 include two steps to help achieve this goal:

1. Inclusion of a mandatory identification microchipping provision of all dogs and cats in the unincorporated areas; and
2. Inclusion of a mandatory spaying/neutering provision for all dogs and cats over four months of age, subject to certain exceptions, in the unincorporated areas.

**Mandatory Microchipping**

Microchips are positive identification aids that act as essential tools in reuniting lost pets with their families. Unlike dog tags or tattoos, which can become lost, damaged, faded and/or altered, microchips provide a permanent identification system with unique numbers that cannot be changed. Microchipping of animals has largely become a customary practice; millions of dogs, cats, horses, livestock, birds, wildlife, and endangered species have been "chipped." The process is simple and non-surgical. The chip, which is approximately the size of a grain of rice, is injected underneath the skin with a needle. Anesthesia is not required, and even the smallest animals such as fish, puppies, and kittens are safely microchipped.

Of the 18,569 stray dogs that were impounded during the last calendar year, only 2,731 (14%) were reclaimed by their owners. Of the 13,307 stray cats that were impounded in the same timeframe, only 120 (0.9%) were reclaimed by their owners. The most common reason dogs and cats are not reclaimed is due to lack of identification and the inability to contact the owner. Microchips will improve the Department's returned-to-owner rate and lessen euthanasia in County shelters.

Microchipping of pets will also help the Department positively discern and differentiate dogs of the same breed to efficiently enforce state and local law with no risk that the dog at issue has been substituted, including rabies and other vaccinations, and licensing requirements. Microchip identification will also greatly aid the Department's ability to investigate bite cases and animal cruelty cases. The Department has been able to reunite more than 400 distraught owners with their pets through use of microchip identification. Furthermore, it will be an invaluable tool in the Department's goal of reducing the number of impounds into our shelters and increase the percentage of redeemed pets.

### Mandatory Spay/Neuter

Veterinary science has demonstrated the safety and positive health benefits of spaying and neutering, which is especially true if the pet is sterilized before maturity. Pursuant to state law, the Department has sterilized every adopted pet for the last eight years, including puppies and kittens as young as two months, and has had positive results with very few complications relating to this practice.

Of the 19,008 stray and owner-surrendered dogs that were impounded during the last calendar year, 59% were two years or less of age. 1,671 were puppies, younger than two months, and not old enough for adoption. Similarly, of the 14,448 cats impounded in the same timeframe, 78.5 % were younger than two years and 3,219 or 22.3% were less than two months old. Given the age of the animals, it is safe to attribute these significant numbers as the results of the two latest breeding cycles. Accordingly, it is clear that the animals in Riverside County need some type of further management/limitation relating to their unrestrained reproduction. This degree of fecundity can only be lowered by enforcement of a mandatory spay/neuter provision.

The spay/neuter provisions shall be secondary enforcement only; accordingly, focus of the spay/neuter requirement is directed at individuals who are likely to contribute to the overpopulation problem. These are individuals who violate existing state or local law relating to animals, including animals at large, bite cases, animal cruelty cases, and noncompliance with citations. The requirement to spay/neuter dogs and cats whose owners and/or custodians fail to comply with the law will greatly help to implement the Department's plan to solve the burdensome unwanted animal surplus in our County.

In addition to the above, the Department also implements a low-cost spay/neuter voucher program called ASAP (Animal Sterilization Assistance Program), formally known as the POPCO program, which serves as a financial incentive toward voluntary spay/neuter. In further efforts, the Department also includes deployment of the Animal Neuter Spay Wellness and Education Resource vehicle, the "ANSWER" on wheels, for community outreach measures on education of the process and long term benefits of pet sterilization.

### **IMPLEMENTATION/ENFORCEMENT:**

The ordinance will be enforced when Animal Control Officers check the status of pets they contact during the normal course of their work. A stray dog or cat impounded by the Department will be microchipped and altered prior to being reclaimed by its owner or custodian. An appeal process is prescribed for those owners who may dispute the circumstances or application of this ordinance.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:**

The fiscal impacts of this ordinance will be neutral to positive depending upon the level of initial voluntary compliance. Overall, as the number of intact animals decreases, so too will the absolute number of pets produced from unplanned reproduction decrease, which would over time reduce the funding required to impound, house and care for such animals. The segment of the impounded pet population most capable of marked improvement is that population which is to be "returned to owner." These pets generally are held for fewer days, require less care by Department personnel, and generate revenue for the County. Microchip identification will permit these efficiencies.

1 ORDINANCE NO. 630.12

2 AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

3 AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 630.11 RELATING TO DOGS AND CATS

4  
5 The Board of Supervisors of the County of Riverside ordains as follows:

6 Section 1. The following definitions are added to Section 1. of Ordinance No. 630.11  
7 to read as follows:

- 8 a. “Animal Rescue Operation. Any building, structure, enclosure or premises run by  
9 an Animal Rescuer, whether or not a valid nonprofit corporation formed pursuant  
10 to the provisions of the California Corporations Code for the prevention of cruelty  
11 to animals, which meets all requirements and standards referred to in Section 6 of  
12 this ordinance.”
- 13 b. “Class III Kennel. Any building, structure, enclosure or premises whereupon, or  
14 within which, twenty-six (26) to forty (40) dogs, four (4) months of age or older,  
15 are kept or maintained.”
- 16 c. “Class IV Kennel. Any building, structure, enclosure or premises whereupon, or  
17 within which, forty-one (41) or more dogs, four (4) months of age or older, are kept  
18 or maintained.”
- 19 d. “Incapable of breeding. Any dog or cat which has been examined by a California  
20 licensed Veterinarian and determined to not be capable of reproducing. A  
21 certificate of sterility, signed by the Veterinarian must be provided upon demand.”
- 22 e. “Sentry Dog Kennel. Any building structure, enclosure, or premises whereupon, or  
23 within which, five or more guard or sentry dogs are kept or maintained.”

24 Section 2. The following definitions in Section 1. of Ordinance No. 630.11 are  
25 replaced with the definitions set forth below to read as follows:

26 “Animal Rescuer. Any individual possessing a rescue permit from the Department, who  
27 routinely obtains a dog or cat from the rightful owner of said animal, or any animal from  
28 an animal shelter that has been retained in accordance with this Ordinance.”

1           “Class I Kennel. Any building, structure, enclosure, or premises whereupon, or within  
2           which, five (5) to ten (10) dogs, four (4) months of age or older, are kept or maintained. A  
3           Class I Kennel shall not include a Sentry Dog Kennel or an Animal Rescue Operation that  
4           meets the definition and requirements set forth in this ordinance.”

5           “Class II Kennel. Any building, structure, enclosure or premises whereupon, or within  
6           which, eleven (11) to twenty-five (25) dogs, four (4) months of age or older, are kept or  
7           maintained.”

8           “Unaltered and Unspayed. A dog or cat, four (4) months of age or older, that has not been  
9           spayed or neutered. A condition that exists in an animal which permits the producing of  
10          offspring.”

11          Section 3.       The first paragraph of subsection a. of Section 5. of Ordinance No. 630.11  
12          is amended to read as follows:

13                “a.     No person shall operate or maintain a Class I Kennel, Class II Kennel, Class III  
14                Kennel, Class IV Kennel, Sentry Dog Kennel or cattery without first obtaining an  
15                appropriate license from the Department. Such license shall be valid for a period of either  
16                one (1) or two (2) years from the date of issuance. Said license shall be renewed within  
17                thirty (30) days after the date of expiration. Where a kennel license has been issued and is  
18                in effect, the dogs contained in such kennel shall be exempt from the requirements of  
19                individual license tags as provided in Section 2 of this ordinance. The Class I Kennel,  
20                Class II Kennel, Class III Kennel, Class IV Kennel, Sentry Dog Kennel and cattery license  
21                fees, and late fees, shall be as set out below. If an application for a license or renewal of a  
22                license is made more than thirty (30) days after the date such license is required or such  
23                previous license has expired, a late fee of 50% of the applicable fee shall be added.”

24          Section 4.       The following categories are added to subsection a. of Section 5. of  
25          Ordinance No. 630.11 to read as follows:

26                    “Class III (26-40 dogs)

27                    1 year license, Un-Altered* .....	\$500.00
2 year license, Un-Altered* .....	\$700.00
28                    1 year license, Altered* .....	\$350.00
2 year license, Altered* .....	\$500.00

**\*One (1) acre minimum as per Ordinance No. 348**

**COMMENTS:**

- 1. Altered: All dogs are spayed and/or neutered
- 2. Unaltered: One or more dogs are not spayed and/or neutered

**Late Fee: 50% of the applicable fee(s)."**

"Class IV (41+ dogs)

1 year license, Un-Altered*	\$750.00
2 year license, Un-Altered*	\$900.00
1 year license, Altered*	\$500.00
2 year license, Altered*	\$650.00

**\*One (1) acre minimum as per Ordinance No. 348**

**COMMENTS:**

- 1. Altered: All dogs are spayed and/or neutered
- 2. Unaltered: One or more dogs are not spayed and/or neutered

**Late Fee: 50% of the applicable fee(s)."**

"Sentry Dog Kennel

1 year license, Un-Altered*+	\$500.00
2 year license, Un-Altered*+	\$750.00
1 year license, Altered*+	\$350.00
2 year license, Altered*+	\$500.00

**\*One (1) acre minimum as per Ordinance No. 348**

**+ Conditional Use Permit required as per Ordinance No. 348**

**COMMENTS:**

- 1. Altered: All dogs are spayed and/or neutered
- 2. Unaltered: One or more dogs are not spayed and/or neutered

**Late Fee: 50% of the applicable fee(s)."**

Section 5. Subsection c. of Section 6. of Ordinance No. 630.11 is amended to read as

follows:

"c. An animal rescuer may keep a maximum of four (4) personal (not for adoption or sale) dogs and nine (9) personal (not for adoption or sale) cats and must include these animals as "personal pets" on the animal rescue permit application."

Section 6. Subsection n. of Section 11. of Ordinance No. 630.11 is amended to read as

follows:

"n. The hourly rate for the recovery of administrative costs associated with the recoupment of enforcement costs, as provided in this Ordinance, shall be \$53.00."

1           **Section 7.**     A new Section 13 is added to Ordinance No. 630.11 to read as follows:

2                     “Section 13.   a.     **MANDATORY SPAYING AND NEUTERING**

3                     1.     **Requirement.**   No person may own, keep, or harbor an unaltered and  
4                                       unaltered dog or cat in violation of this Section.  An owner or custodian of  
5                                       an unaltered dog must have the dog spayed or neutered, or provide a  
6                                       certificate of sterility, or obtain an unaltered dog license in accordance with  
7                                       this ordinance.  An owner or custodian of an unaltered cat must have the  
8                                       animal spayed or neutered, or provide a certificate of sterility.

9                     2.     **Exemptions.**   This section shall not apply to any of the following:

10                     A.     A dog with a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily harm or  
11                                       death if spayed or neutered, due to age or infirmity.  The owner or  
12                                       custodian must obtain written confirmation of this fact from a  
13                                       California licensed Veterinarian.  If the dog is able to be safely  
14                                       spayed or neutered at a later date, that date must be stated in the  
15                                       written confirmation; should this date be later than thirty (30) days,  
16                                       the owner or custodian must apply for an unaltered dog license.

17                     B.     A cat with a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily harm or  
18                                       death if spayed or neutered, due to age or infirmity.  The owner or  
19                                       custodian must obtain written confirmation of this fact from a  
20                                       California licensed Veterinarian.  If the cat is able to be safely  
21                                       spayed or neutered at a later date, that date must be stated in the  
22                                       written confirmation.

23                     b.     **DENIAL OR REVOCATION OF UNALTERED DOG LICENSE AND RE-**  
24                                       **APPLICATION**

25                     1.     The Department may deny or revoke an unaltered dog license for one or  
26                                       more of the following reasons:

27                                       A.     The owner, custodian, applicant or licensee is not in compliance  
28                                       with all of the requirements of this section;

1 B. The Department has received at least two complaints, verified by the  
2 Department, that the owner, custodian, applicant, or licensee has allowed a  
3 dog to be stray or run at large or has otherwise been found to be neglectful  
4 of his or her or other animals;

5 C. The owner, custodian, applicant, or licensee has been previously  
6 cited for violating a state law, county code or other municipal provision  
7 relating to the care and control of animals;

8 D. The unaltered dog has been adjudicated by a court or an agency of  
9 appropriate jurisdiction to be potentially dangerous, dangerous or vicious,  
10 or to be nuisance within the meaning of the Riverside County Ordinances or  
11 under state law;

12 E. Any unaltered dog license held by the applicant has been revoked;

13 F. The license application is discovered to contain a material  
14 misrepresentation or omission of fact.

15 2. Re-application for unaltered dog license:

16 A. When an unaltered dog license is denied, the applicant may re-apply  
17 for a license upon changed circumstances and a showing that the  
18 requirements of this ordinance have been met. The Department shall refund  
19 one-half of the license fee when the application is denied. The applicant shall  
20 pay the full fee upon re-application.

21 B. When an unaltered dog license is revoked, the owner or custodian of  
22 the dog may apply for a new license after a thirty (30) day waiting period  
23 upon showing that the requirements of this ordinance have been met. No part  
24 of an unaltered dog license fee is refundable when a license is revoked and  
25 the applicant shall pay the full fee upon re-application.

26 c. APPEAL OF DENIAL OR REVOCATION OF UNALTERED DOG LICENSE.

27 1. Request for hearing.

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1 A. Notice of intent to deny or revoke. The Department shall mail to the  
2 owner, custodian, licensee, or applicant a written notice of its intent to deny  
3 or revoke the license for an unaltered dog which includes the reason(s) for the  
4 denial or revocation. The owner, custodian, licensee or applicant may request  
5 a hearing to appeal the denial or revocation. The request must be made in  
6 writing within ten (10) days after the notice of intent to deny or revoke is  
7 mailed. Failure to submit a timely written hearing request shall be deemed a  
8 waiver of the right to appeal the license denial or revocation.

9 B. Hearing officer. The hearing shall be conducted by the Animal  
10 Services Director's designee.

11 C. Notice and conduct of hearing. The Department shall mail a written  
12 notice of the date, time, and place for the hearing not less than ten (10) days  
13 before the hearing date. The hearing date shall be no more than thirty (30)  
14 days after the Department's receipt of the request for a hearing. The hearing  
15 will be informal and the rules of evidence will not be strictly observed. The  
16 Department shall mail a written decision to the owner or custodian within ten  
17 (10) days after the hearing. The decision of the hearing officer shall be the  
18 final administrative decision.

19 2. Change in location of dog. If the dog is moved after the Department has  
20 issued a letter of intent to deny or revoke, but has not yet denied or revoked the  
21 license, the owner, custodian, licensee, or applicant must provide the Department  
22 with information as to the dog's whereabouts, including the current owner or  
23 custodian's name, address, and telephone number.

24 d. **TRANSFER, SALE, AND BREEDING OF UNALTERED DOG OR CAT.**

25 1. Offer for sale or transfer of unaltered dog. An owner or custodian who  
26 offers any unaltered dog for sale, trade, or adoption must include a valid unaltered  
27 dog license number with the offer of sale, trade or adoption, or otherwise state and  
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1 establish compliance with this section. The unaltered license and microchip numbers  
2 must appear on a document transferring the animal to the new owner.

3 2. Offer for sale or transfer of unaltered cat. An owner or custodian of an  
4 unaltered cat must notify the Department of the name and address of the transferee  
5 within ten days after the transfer. The microchip numbers must appear on a document  
6 transferring the animal to the new owner.

7 e. PENALTIES. Penalties issued for failure to spay or neuter a dog or cat shall be  
8 enforced as set forth below:

9 1. An administrative citation, infraction, or other such authorized penalty may  
10 be issued to an owner or custodian of an unaltered dog or cat for a violation of this  
11 section only when the owner or custodian is concurrently cited for another violation  
12 under state or local law pertaining to the obligations of a person owning or  
13 possessing a dog or cat. Examples of such state law or local ordinance violations  
14 include, but are not limited to, the following: failure to possess a current canine  
15 rabies vaccination of the subject dog; dog or cat at large; failure to license a dog;  
16 leash law violations; kennel or cattery permit violations; tethering violations;  
17 unhealthy or unsanitary conditions; failure to provide adequate care for the subject  
18 dog or cat in violation of the Penal Code; rabies quarantine violations for the subject  
19 dog; operating a business without a license and/or lack of State Tax ID Number;  
20 fighting dog activity in violation of Penal Code section 597.5; animals left  
21 unattended in motor vehicles; potentially dangerous, dangerous or vicious animals;  
22 and noisy animals.

23 2. Should the owner or custodian of an unaltered dog or cat be found in  
24 violation of a state or local law, as stated above, in subsection (1), the owner or  
25 custodian shall be required to spay or neuter the unaltered animal in accordance  
26 with this section.

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1 f. IMPOUNDMENT OF UNALTERED DOG OR CAT

2 1. When an unaltered dog or cat is impounded pursuant to state and/or local  
3 law, in addition to satisfying applicable requirements for the release of the animal,  
4 including but not limited to payment of impound fees pursuant to this Ordinance,  
5 the owner or custodian shall also do one of the following:

6 A. Provide written proof of the dog or cat's prior sterilization, if  
7 conditions cannot or do not make this assessment obvious to Department  
8 personnel;

9 B. Have the dog or cat spayed or neutered by a Department veterinarian  
10 at the expense of the owner or custodian. Such expense may include  
11 additional fees due to extraordinary care required;

12 C. Have the dog or cat spayed or neutered by another California  
13 licensed veterinarian. The owner or custodian may arrange for another  
14 California licensed veterinarian to spay or neuter the animal, and shall pay to  
15 the Department the cost to deliver said animal to the chosen veterinarian. The  
16 cost to deliver the animal shall be based on the Department's hourly rate  
17 established by the Auditor-Controller. The veterinarian shall complete and  
18 return to the Department within ten days, a statement confirming that the dog  
19 or cat has been spayed or neutered or is, in fact, incapable of breeding and  
20 shall release the dog or cat to the owner or custodian only after the spay or  
21 neuter procedure is complete;

22 D. At the discretion of the Director, the dog or cat may be released to  
23 the owner or custodian if he or she signs a statement under penalty of perjury,  
24 representing that the dog or cat will be spayed or neutered and that he or she  
25 will submit a statement within ten (10) days of the release, signed by the  
26 veterinarian, confirming that the dog or cat has been spayed or neutered or is  
27 incapable of breeding; or

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1 E. If the owner or custodian demonstrates compliance with this  
2 Section.

3 2. Costs of Impoundment.

4 A. The owner or custodian of the unaltered dog or cat shall be  
5 responsible for the costs of impoundment, which shall include daily board  
6 costs, vaccination/medication, and any other diagnostic or therapeutic  
7 applications as provided in this Ordinance.

8 B. The costs of impoundment shall be a lien on the dog or cat, and the  
9 unaltered animal shall not be returned to its owner or custodian until the  
10 costs are paid. If the owner or custodian of an impounded unaltered animal  
11 does not pay the lien against it in full within fourteen (14) days, the animal  
12 shall be deemed abandoned to the Department in accordance with this  
13 Ordinance.

14 g. APPLICATION OF FEES AND FINES COLLECTED. All costs and fines  
15 collected under this part and the fees collected under this Section, subsection (f) shall be  
16 paid to the Department for the purpose of defraying the cost of the implementation and  
17 enforcement of this program.”

18 Section 8. A new Section 14 is added to Ordinance No. 630.11 to read as follows:

19 “Section 14. MANDATORY MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS AND CATS

20 a. All dogs and cats over the age of four months must be implanted with an  
21 identifying microchip. The owner or custodian is required to provide the  
22 microchip number to the Department, and shall notify the Department of  
23 any change of ownership of the dog or cat, or any change of address or  
24 telephone number. Nothing in this section supersedes, eliminates, or alters  
25 the requirements of sections 2, 5, and any other licensing requirements of  
26 this ordinance.

27 b. Exemptions. The mandatory microchipping requirements shall not apply to  
28 any of the following:

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1. 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. The owner or custodian must obtain written confirmation of that fact from a California licensed Veterinarian. If the dog or cat is able to be safely implanted with an identifying microchip at a later date, that date must be stated in the written confirmation.
2. A dog or cat which would be impaired of its athletic ability or performance if implanted with the microchip identification. The owner or custodian must obtain written confirmation of that fact from a California licensed Veterinarian. If the dog or cat is able to be safely implanted with an identifying microchip at a later date, that date must be stated in the written confirmation.
3. A dog or cat that is kenneled or trained in Riverside County, but is owned by an individual that does not reside in Riverside County. The owner or custodian must keep and maintain the animal in accordance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction in which the owner or custodian of the animal permanently resides, including but not limited to the applicable licensing and rabies vaccination requirements of that jurisdiction.

c. Transfer, sale of dogs and cats.

1. An owner or custodian who offers any dog, over the age of four months, for sale, trade, or adoption must provide the microchip identification number and the valid dog license number with the offer of sale, trade or adoption. The license and microchip numbers must appear on a document

1 transferring the dog to the new owner. The owner or  
2 custodian shall also advise the Department of the name and  
3 address of the new owner or custodian in accordance with  
4 subdivision (a) of this section. An owner or custodian who  
5 offers any dog, over the age of four months, for sale, trade,  
6 or adoption and fails to provide the Department with the  
7 name and address of the new owner, is in violation of this  
8 ordinance and shall be subject to the penalties set forth  
9 herein.

10 2. An owner or custodian who offers any cat, over the age of  
11 four months, for sale, trade, or adoption must provide the  
12 microchip identification number with the offer of sale, trade  
13 or adoption. The microchip numbers must appear on a  
14 document transferring the cat to the new owner. The owner  
15 or custodian shall also advise the Department of the name  
16 and address of the new owner or custodian in accordance  
17 with subdivision (a) of this section. An owner or custodian  
18 who offers any cat, over the age of four months, for sale,  
19 trade, or adoption and fails to provide the Department with  
20 the name and address of the new owner, is in violation of this  
21 ordinance and shall be subject to the penalties set forth  
22 herein.

23 3. When a puppy or kitten under the age of four months  
24 implanted with microchip identification is sold or otherwise  
25 transferred to another person, the owner or custodian shall  
26 advise the Department of the name and address of the new  
27 owner or custodian, and the microchip number of the puppy  
28 or kitten within ten days after the transfer. If it is discovered

1 that an owner or custodian has failed to provide the  
2 Department with the name and address of the new owner and  
3 the microchip number of the puppy or kitten, the owner or  
4 custodian shall be subject to the penalties set forth in this  
5 ordinance.

6 d. When an impounded dog or cat is without microchip identification,  
7 in addition to satisfying applicable requirements for the release of  
8 the animal, including but not limited to payment of impound fees  
9 pursuant to this Ordinance, the owner or custodian shall also do one  
10 of the following:

11 1. Have the dog or cat implanted with a Department microchip  
12 by a Department registered veterinarian technician or  
13 veterinarian or designated personnel at the expense of the  
14 owner or custodian;

15 2. Have the dog or cat implanted with a Department approved  
16 microchip by a California licensed veterinarian. The owner  
17 or custodian may arrange for another California licensed  
18 veterinarian to perform the implant, and shall pay to the  
19 Department the cost to deliver the dog or cat to the chosen  
20 veterinarian. The cost to deliver the dog or cat shall be based  
21 on the Department's hourly rate established by the Riverside  
22 County Auditor-Controller. The veterinarian shall complete  
23 and return to the Department within ten days, a statement  
24 confirming that the microchip has been implanted, provide  
25 the Department with the number and shall release the dog or  
26 cat to the owner or custodian only after the procedure is  
27 complete; or,

28 3. At the discretion of the Director of Animal Services, the dog

1 or cat may be released to the owner or custodian if he or she  
2 signs a statement under penalty of perjury, representing that  
3 the dog or cat will be implanted with a microchip and that he  
4 or she will submit a statement within ten (10) days of the  
5 release, signed by a California licensed veterinarian,  
6 confirming that the dog or cat has been so implanted and  
7 provide the microchip number to the Department or allow  
8 the Department to scan the dog or cat for the microchip to  
9 verify.

10 e. Fees for microchip identification device. The fee for an identifying  
11 microchip device shall be included in the cost of adoption when  
12 adopting a dog or cat from a Riverside County animal shelter. The  
13 fee for an identifying microchip device shall be the amount set forth  
14 in Section 11, subdivision (o) per animal for all other animals. If an  
15 animal has already been implanted with an identifying microchip  
16 device by some other facility, there will be no fee to have the  
17 identification microchip number entered into the Department's  
18 registry as required by subdivision (a) of this section.

19 f. Penalties

- 20 1. An owner or custodian in violation of this section may be  
21 issued an administrative citation, pursuant to the  
22 Administrative Citations and Penalties section set forth in  
23 this Ordinance, for failure to microchip the owner or  
24 custodian's dog or cat.
- 25 2. If an administrative citation is issued for violation of this  
26 Section of this ordinance, persons receiving such  
27 administrative citation, may choose to clear the citation  
28 within ten (10) calendar days, thereby avoiding potentially



1 higher penalty, by demonstrating their compliance with the  
2 mandatory microchipping requirement of subdivision (a) of  
3 this section to the Director and paying an administrative fee  
4 of twenty dollars (\$20.00) to the Department.

5 g. Allocation of fees and fines collected. All costs, fees, and fines  
6 collected under this section shall be paid to the Department for the  
7 purpose of defraying the cost of the implementation and  
8 enforcement of this program and for low cost microchipping  
9 programs administered by the Department.”

10 Section 9. Existing Sections 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26  
11 are renumbered 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 respectively.

12 Section 10. Renumbered Section 24, which was previously Section 22, of Ordinance  
13 No. 630.11 is amended to read as follows:

14 The references to “Section 22” are changed to “Section 24.”

15 Section 11. This Ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days after its adoption.  
16

17  
18 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY  
19 OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

20 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
21 Chairman

22 ATTEST:  
23 CLERK OF THE BOARD

24  
25 By: \_\_\_\_\_  
26 Deputy

27 (SEAL)

28 FORM APPROVED COUNTY COUNSEL  
BY: JINNY H. RA 12/5/08  
DATE