



**City of Moreno Valley**  
**Community Development Department – Animal Services Division**  
**Mandatory Microchipping of Dogs and Cats**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Question: Why did the City of Moreno Valley enact a Mandatory Microchip Ordinance for Dogs and Cats?**

**Answer:** The City of Moreno Valley realizes the need to reduce the intake of lost pets at our local Animal Shelter. In most cases pets with permanent identification can be returned home within 24 hours and in some cases even sooner. Reuniting lost pets with their owners as soon as possible is good for the pet and good for the pet's owner. Objectives of the ordinance, passed by the City Council on May 12, 2015 are to:

- Return more lost pets to their owners as soon as possible.
- Reduce the intake of impounded pets at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter.
- Reduce the euthanasia of pets that remain unclaimed because they had no permanent identification.
- Reduce impound costs and other fees for responsible pet owners.
- Require irresponsible pet owners to be held accountable.

**Question: How does this ordinance affect me as a pet owner living in the City of Moreno Valley?**

**Answer:** This ordinance does not affect you if you are in full compliance with local and state laws regarding the keeping and maintaining of your pets. If you are found in violation of a local or state animal control regulation you will be required to have your pet (dog or cat) microchipped. Below are just a few examples of violations of a local or state animal control regulation:

- Loose dog running at large (leash law violation).
- Failure to possess a rabies vaccination for a dog over 4 months old.
- Failure to possess a current dog license.
- Failure to provide proper care for a dog or cat.

**Question: Are there any exemptions allowed in the Mandatory Microchip Ordinance for Cats and Dogs?**

**Answer:** Yes. The list of exemptions of microchipping your dog or cat is:

- It would be detrimental to the health of the animal as determined by a veterinarian.
- It would impair an animal's athletic ability or performance as determined by a veterinarian.

- A dog or cat owned by an individual residing outside the City who has their pet here temporarily for the purpose of boarding or training.

**Question: What if I don't Microchip my pet?**

**Answer:** Microchipping dogs and cats will be mandatory and your voluntary compliance with this new City code will save you time and money. Pets not microchipped can subject the pet owner to:

- An administrative citation for violation of a local code.
- An increase in boarding fees especially when a pet has to spend more time at the Animal Shelter waiting for their owner to find them. Additional days at the Animal Shelter mean an increase in boarding fees.

**Question: How do I get a Microchip for my pet?**

**Answer:** Most veterinary clinics offer microchips for their client's pets, just inquire with your veterinarian if this is a service they provide. You can also obtain a HomeAgain microchip at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter for a fee of \$16.00 which includes the lifetime registration fee.

**Question: How will I benefit from having my pet Microchipped?**

**Answer:** According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) having your pet microchipped helps reunite pets with their owners sooner. The ASPCA strongly recommends that pet owners microchip their pets as a permanent form of identification, in addition to a current dog license and identification tag. Use of tags with a microchip has proven to be the most reliable system for the recovery of lost or stray companion animals.

**How much does a microchip cost?**

The one-time cost for a microchip varies depending on where you decide to purchase one for your pet. The microchip fee at the Moreno Valley Animal Shelter is \$16.00 per chip and beginning on June 11, 2015 this fee includes the lifetime registration.

**Question: Do other jurisdictions have similar Microchip ordinances?**

**Answer:** Yes. The cities of Riverside and Fontana have mandatory ordinances along with Riverside County and Los Angeles County.