

JAN 27 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that one in three pets
2 will become lost during its lifetime. Sadly, ninety per cent of
3 these pets will not return home unless the pet is equipped with
4 some sort of identification. Across the nation, 1,500,000 stray
5 animals are euthanized by animal shelters and animal control
6 contractors. Microchip identification can save the lives of
7 these pets.

8 Today, national microchip registration companies provide a
9 more affordable and effective alternative for pet owners looking
10 for their lost pets. The legislature further finds that
11 microchip identification is the single most effective way of
12 returning lost pets to their owners. A microchip is about the
13 size of a grain of rice and implanted beneath the pet's skin
14 between the shoulders. It contains a unique number used to
15 identify animals, which can be scanned and then used to find the
16 owner's contact information in a registry. Found pets can be



1 taken to a veterinary office, rescue organization or shelter, or
2 even a pet store to have the pet checked for a microchip.

3 With support from social media, individuals with personal
4 scanners are available in every community and can respond to
5 found pet alerts posted on pet pages. National registries, such
6 the nonprofit Found Animals organization, then send a voicemail,
7 text message, and electronic mail alert to owners when their pet
8 is found. The pet owner is then provided with the contact
9 information of the rescuer or finder. These support networks
10 allow finders to directly return lost pets to their owners in
11 communities where they live, since lost pets are most often
12 found within a mile of their home.

13 The legislature also finds that this streamlined process
14 effectively bypasses the need for animal control, saves taxpayer
15 money by eliminating the cost of intake and boarding, and avoids
16 the delays and additional stress on the pet from sitting alone
17 in a kennel waiting for its owner.

18 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to save pets' lives
19 by requiring all dog and cat owners to microchip their pets.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 143, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§143- Microchip identification. (a) An owner shall
5 have a microchip implanted in the owner's dog or cat, and the
6 owner shall register the microchip number and the owner's
7 contact information with a microchip registration company.

8 (b) When the contact information of the owner of a dog or
9 cat changes, the owner shall provide the new contact information
10 to the applicable microchip registration company no later than
11 thirty days after the change in contact information occurs.

12 (c) When the owner of a dog or cat changes:

13 (1) The former owner shall inform the new owner with which
14 microchip registration company the dog or cat's
15 microchip is registered; and

16 (2) The new owner shall provide the microchip registration
17 company with the new owner's contact information no
18 later than thirty days after the change of ownership
19 occurs.



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1 (d) Every animal control contractor or nonprofit animal
2 rescue organization shall implant a microchip in all stray dogs
3 and cats in its custody that do not have a microchip.

4 (e) All animal control contractors shall activate the
5 microchip registration company's found pet alerts to notify
6 owners whose pets' microchips are registered with that company.

7 (f) Veterinary clinics, animal shelters, and other animal
8 rescue organizations that scan found pets for microchips shall
9 release only the chip identification number to the finder upon
10 request."

11 SECTION 3. Section 143-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended as follows:

13 1. By adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
14 and to read:

15 "Microchip" or "microchip identification" means a device
16 that is implanted under the skin of an animal and that contains
17 contact information for the owner of the animal."

18 2. By amending the definition of "owner" to read:

19 "Owner" [~~includes every~~] means any person owning,
20 harboring, or keeping a dog[; ~~provided that if the owner is a~~
21 minor under the age of eighteen years, the parent, guardian, or



1 ~~other person having the care, custody, or control of the minor~~
2 ~~shall be irrebuttably presumed to be the owner.] or cat;~~
3 providing care or sustenance for a dog or cat; or having custody
4 of a dog or cat, whether temporarily or permanently."

5 SECTION 4. Section 143-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§143-2 License or microchip required.** It shall be
8 unlawful for any person to own or harbor a dog or cat unless the
9 dog or cat is licensed or has been implanted with a microchip
10 identification as provided by this chapter[~~7~~]; provided that the
11 legislative bodies of the several counties may, by ordinance,
12 dispense with or modify the licensing requirements of this
13 chapter. This chapter shall not apply to dogs or cats under the
14 age of three months [~~which do not run at large, dogs in~~
15 ~~quarantine and~~] or dogs or cats brought into the State
16 exclusively for the purpose of entering them in a dog or cat
17 show or [~~dog~~] exhibition and not [~~allowed~~] allowing them to run
18 at large."

19 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
21 begun before its effective date.



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1 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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Report Title:

Microchip Identification; Pets; Dog and Cat Owners

Description:

Requires dog and cat owners to microchip their pets, if the pets are not licensed.

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