



**CITY COUNCIL
COMMUNICATION:**

ITEM _____

**OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
CITY OF DES MOINES, IOWA**

00-384

SYNOPSIS -

AGENDA:

AUGUST 21, 2000

SUBJECT:

ORDINANCE
REVISIONS
ALLOWING
IMPLANTATION OF
IDENTIFICATION
MICROCHIPS IN
ANIMALS

The Police Department is requesting various amendments to Section 18 of the Municipal Code. The first requested amendments affect Section 18-59: Seizure, Impoundment, and Disposition of Vicious Dogs; and Section 18-202: Seizure, Impoundment, and Disposition of Dangerous Animals. These amendments would require vicious dogs and dangerous animals to have an identification microchip placed in the animal before being released from the Animal Shelter.

The second requested amendment would be an addition to Section 18 of the Municipal Code and would allow the Animal Shelter to collect a \$10 fee from the animal's owner for implanting identification microchips in animals, whether requested by the owner or as would be required by the above proposed amendments to the Municipal Code 18-59 and 18-202.

TYPE:

RESOLUTION
ORDINANCE
RECEIVE/FILE

The Legal and Police Departments have met and agreed on the proposed amendments to the Municipal Code.

FISCAL IMPACT -

SUBMITTED BY:

WILLIAM
MOULDER
CHIEF OF POLICE

There would be no financial impact with the modifications to the ordinance. The cost for the Home Again Microchip is \$6. The additional \$4 covers the overhead cost of entering the appropriate information into a database and maintaining the database.

RECOMMENDATION -

Approval of the amendments to the Municipal Code, Sections 18-59 and 18-202, which would require the implantation of an identification microchip in vicious dogs and dangerous animals; and the amendment to the Municipal Code, Section 18, which would allow for the collection of a \$10 fee from the animal's owner for implanting an identification microchip in

animals, whether requested by the owner or as required by the proposed amendments to Sections 18-59 and 18-202.

BACKGROUND -

Currently, when an animal which is declared vicious or dangerous is returned to their owner, the Animal Control Unit will take several pictures of the animal as a means for later identification. When an animal is impounded that is suspected of being an unlicensed vicious dog or a dangerous animal that was removed from the City, the Animal Control Unit personnel will compare the animal to pictures that were taken of animals declared vicious or dangerous. In the past, animals have been returned to the owners because the Animal Control Unit could not positively verify that it was the same animal based solely on the pictures. Animal identification microchip implants will eliminate this problem.

Through current technology, Animal Identification Microchip Implants have become an accurate way for animal control units to identify the ownership of animals. In disputes of ownership and stray animals, the Animal Control Unit will be able to easily identify who is the last known owner based upon the implant. The Animal Control Unit would then have the ability to track the ownership of the animal from the time the microchip was implanted, increasing the probability of reuniting the pet with its rightful owner. The public will greatly benefit from utilization of this technology.

There are only two types of microchip implants available on the market. One is manufactured and sold by "Home Again" and the other is by "Avid". Both types are reliable and widely used within the veterinary community.