NEW YORK STATE ANIMAL PROTECTION FEDERATION

NYSAPF is the voice of New York's humane societies, SPCAs, non-profit and municipal animal shelters as well as animal welfare organizations which focus on homeless animals.

MEMO IN SUPPORT OF A.1839 (Rosenthal)/S.4570 (Tedisco)
Standardizing Microchips for Companion Animals

When we try to tackle the issue of lost companion animals, the most effective way proven to return lost animals to their owners is the use of microchips.

A 2009 study of more than 7,700 stray animals in the United States at animal shelters showed that dogs without microchips were returned to their owners **21.9%** of the time, whereas microchipped dogs were returned to their owners **52.2%** of the time. Cats without microchips were reunited with their owners only **1.8%** of the time, whereas microchipped cats went back home **38.5%** of the time.

We have seen in Texas as well as in Canada, Australia, England and across Europe, standardization of chips and readers coupled with mandatory chipping has the highest rate of return.

Standardizing microchips and readers will greatly ease the economic strain lost animals place on the state's animal shelters. When reviewing 2016 numbers from the 91 animal shelters across New York State that use PetPoint for managing their shelter statistics, we found the following:

Intake of Strays	Return to Owner	Days of Care	Cost of Care
23,905	3,964	1,536,893	$15,368,930

Standardizing microchips and readers as well as mandating registration will enable New York's animal shelters to cut costs and enhance the overall care of the companion animals in their charge.

1. Standardizing the frequency of microchips used in New York State
It is essential that the chips implanted are on a standard frequency. Australia and Canada have both standardized chip frequency on the national level. These chips conform to the International Organization for Standardization using ISO 11784 and ISO 11785. ISO 11784 specifies the structure of the identification code. ISO 11785 specifies how the chip is activated and how the stored information is transferred to a chip scanner. The chips should also be ISO Conformant Full Duplex and run at a frequency of 134.2 kHz

2. Standardizing Chip Readers
Standardizing chips won't do anyone any good unless we also standardize chip readers. It is essential that both veterinarians and animal shelters upgrade their readers to the standardized frequency we are recommending. There are some readers on the market that say they are universal. However, none of the scanners had 100% sensitivity.

3. Mandatory Registration
Chipping doesn't work unless the owner information isn't registered properly. The those who implant the chips (veterinarians or shelters) would be responsible for sending the registration information to the manufacturer who then maintains the information in a centralized database. Animal care workers can access that information when scanning a lost animal with the goal of reuniting a lost animal with her or his family.

The New York State Animal Protection Federation strongly supports the standardization of both microchips and readers and the mandatory registration of those chips to help shelters return lost animals to their owners.