

ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 6.08.011 RELATING TO THE
MICROCHIP OF DOGS AND CATS AND AMENDING
SUBSECTION 6.04.020 (P) OF THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CODE
RELATING TO THE DEFINITION OF OWNER

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz ordain as follows:

SECTION I

The Santa Cruz County Code is hereby amended by adding Section 6.08.011 to read:

6.08.011 Microchip of Dogs and Cats

(A) All dogs and cats over the age of four months must be implanted with an identifying microchip. Nothing in this section supersedes, eliminates, or alters the licensing requirements of this chapter.

(B) Exemptions. The microchip requirements shall not apply to any of the following:

(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 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, the date must be stated in the written confirmation.

(2) A dog or cat that is kenneled or trained in the County of Santa Cruz, but is owned by an individual that does not reside in the County of Santa Cruz. The owner must keep and maintain the animal in accordance with the applicable laws and ordinances of the jurisdiction in which the owner 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 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 transferring the dog to the new owner.

(2) An owner who offers any cat, over the age of four months for sale, trade, or adoption must provide the microchip identification number with the offer of sale, trade or adoption. The microchip numbers must appear on a document transferring the cat to the new owner.

(D) When an impounded dog or cat is without microchip identification, in addition to satisfying applicable requirements for the release of the animal, including but not limited to payment, of impound fees pursuant to this chapter, the owner shall also do one of the following:

(1) Have the dog or cat implanted with a County Animal Shelter microchip by a Shelter California licensed veterinarian technician or veterinarian or designated personnel at the expense of the owner; or

(2) Have the dog or cat implanted with a County Animal Shelter approved microchip by a California licensed veterinarian. The owner may arrange for another California licensed veterinarian to perform the implant, and shall pay to the department the cost to deliver the dog or cat to the chosen veterinarian. The veterinarian shall complete and return to the County Animal Shelter within ten days, a statement confirming that the microchip has been implanted, and shall release the dog or cat to the owner only after the procedure is complete.

(E) Fees for microchip identification device. The fee for identifying microchip device shall be included in the cost of adoption when adopting a dog or cat from the Santa Cruz County Animal Shelter.

(F) Allocation of fees and fines collected. All costs, fees and fines collected under this part shall be paid to the County of Santa Cruz Animal Shelter for the purpose of defraying the cost of the implementation and enforcement program. (Ord. _____ § , 2013)

SECTION II

Subsection 6.04.020 (P) is hereby amended to read as follows:

6.04.020 Definitions.

(P) “Owner” means any natural person, association, partnership or corporation. person who intentionally provides care or sustenance for any animal, has title to or an interest in, harbors or has control of any animal, including but not limited to, a dog or cat.

SECTION III

This ordinance shall take effect on the 31st day of _____, 2013, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz by the following vote:

AYES: SUPERVISORS
NOES: SUPERVISORS
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS
ABSTAIN: SUPERVISORS

Chair of the Board of Supervisors

Attest: _____
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Marie Costa
Assistant County Counsel

Distribution : County Counsel
Animal Services Authority
CAO