



www.AmacaUSA.org (800) 972-0416

November 20, 2006

To all United States Pet Microchip Manufacturers and Recovery Services,

Recently the members of the American Microchip Advisory Council for Animals (AMACA) were polled as to whether **AMACA** should develop and provide a nationwide Umbrella Pet Recovery Call Center as described below. The membership vote was overwhelmingly **affirmative**.

Your participation is requested.

As a company or organization providing microchip-based recovery services and/or manufacturing, your support and assistance in developing this plan would be greatly appreciated. Following input from participating companies like yours, the Microchip Advisory Council will present the detailed program to members for consideration, discussion and final vote.

Membership in AMACA is not a requirement for participation in the development of this program. Participation is voluntary and will predominantly be via email to respect participants' time. A preliminary framework of the proposed structure will be developed by the AMACA Umbrella Database Steering Committee with input from all participating companies.

Input is also being provided from national animal care providers and organizations.

Please respond to AmacaUmbrellaPlan@AmacaUSA.org by 5pm PST November 30, 2006, to join in this effort.

Thank you for your consideration.



The American Microchip Advisory Council for Animals

AMACA is an electronic community. Please call (800) 972-0416 and a qualified member will return your call and answer any questions.

The following Request for Vote was sent to all AMACA members on November 9, 2006. Results posted at www.AmacaUSA.org on November 19, 2006.

The Issue

Animal care providers have expressed concern about the proliferation of companies offering microchip-based recovery services. The focus of interest is twofold; (i) which company should an animal care provider contact in order to expedite reuniting lost pets with their families, and; (ii) how does an animal care facility effectively register adopted animals with different brands of microchips.

Pet Recovery: Planning for the Future

There have been suggestions that one centralized recovery database be established. Realistically this concept will be problematic and probably should not be pursued, because it would establish a monopoly,

is anti-competitive, lacks funding and oversight, and would not adequately address privacy issues expressed by pet owners, breeders, shelter personnel and veterinarians. Additionally, it would require conformance and enforcement, necessitating a government mandate. Required funding might cause an economic challenge to shelters and care givers.

A **viable alternative** may be found in the model established by Spain over a decade ago. In Spain there are approximately 10 autonomous and independent recovery databases, and one umbrella database that directs a caller to the appropriate recovery service for owner information. The independent recovery services routinely upload only the microchip numbers from their databases, without owner information, to the umbrella database. Privacy is maintained for the pet owner, and the umbrella database can easily refer a caller to the appropriate recovery service irrespective of microchip brand. Funding requirements for the umbrella database is nominal and is provided by participating recovery services, who must also agree to a reasonable set of criteria that insures a workable recovery service for the entire nation.

Results of the Vote to Develop the Plan

AMACA has polled its members to ascertain whether or not this is a reasonable project for AMACA to develop. The consensus vote is affirmative.

A detailed draft plan will be drawn up for member consideration, discussion and subsequent consensus vote. Members are invited to participate in this plan, but are not required to do so.

- *Membership in AMACA is voluntary. An affirmative consensus vote requires 75% of members to affirm the vote.*
- *Voting is electronic, by email to AMACAVotes@AmacaUSA.org*
- *To respect members' time, the absence of a NAY vote is counted in the AFFIRMATIVE.*
- *Votes were tallied on November 17, 2006 and posted on the AMACA website November 19, 2006.*

Visit AmacaUSA.org for more information.