

Introduced by Senator Lieu

June 22, 2011

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 51—Relative to Microchip Your Animal Day 2011.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 51, as amended, Lieu. Microchip Your Animal Day 2011.

This measure would declare July 7, 2011, to be Microchip Your Animal Day 2011 in California and would request that Californians observe this day by having their dogs and cats microchipped and by supporting organizations that provide ~~no cost~~ *no cost* and affordable microchipping services.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, In the State of California nearly one million dogs
2 and cats enter our municipal animal shelters every year, costing
3 taxpayers ~~over~~ *approximately* \$290 million ~~dollars~~ annually, only
4 13 percent of these animals find their way home, and over half are
5 euthanized in the shelters; and

6 WHEREAS, Many of these unfortunate euthanized companion
7 animals may have had a loving family desperately searching for
8 them, but tragically, since the ~~animal~~ *animals* did not have
9 identification, the shelters were unable to reunite the animals with
10 their owners; and

11 WHEREAS, Many people consider their animals as a member
12 of their family and will expend any amount of money to help
13 protect them; however, despite best efforts, many dogs and cats

1 slip out of an open door and disappear and if the pet is wearing a
2 collar and identification tag, chances are much improved that the
3 pet will make it back home, but if the collar slips off, the pet may
4 face euthanasia within 72 hours of separation; and

5 WHEREAS, A significant source of this problem is the lack of
6 identification which allows for the reunification of lost animals
7 with their owners; only 13 percent of lost animals are reunited
8 with their owners, while 74 percent of microchipped animals are
9 returned home; and

10 WHEREAS, Microchipping is a safe and effective way to get
11 animals back home and prevent them from entering the shelter
12 system; and

13 WHEREAS, Many lost pets are scanned at veterinarian offices
14 or in the field by animal control and returned to their owners
15 without ever being impounded; and

16 ~~WHEREAS, Microchipping pets has also been shown to reduce
17 instances of animal cruelty and assist prosecutors in identifying
18 culprits of animal abuse in instances of hoarding, dog fighting,
19 theft, and unlawful breeding; and~~

20 WHEREAS, Californians can contribute to the effort by
21 microchipping their own companion animals and by supporting
22 programs in their communities that offer accessible microchipping
23 services; and

24 WHEREAS, Veterinarians, humane societies, animal control
25 agencies, and national and local animal welfare organizations will
26 join together and advocate the microchipping of dogs and cats on
27 “Microchip Your Animal Day 2011”; and

28 WHEREAS, This measure would declare July 7, 2011, to be
29 Microchip Your Animal Day 2011 in California. In honor of this
30 day, a free microchipping clinic will be available on the east steps
31 of the State Capitol from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and the Legislature
32 requests that Californians observe this day by having their dogs
33 and cats microchipped and by supporting organizations that provide
34 no-cost and affordable microchipping services; now, therefore, be
35 it

36 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
37 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
38 declares July 7, 2011, to be Microchip Your Animal Day 2011 in
39 California, and requests Californians to observe the day by having

- 1 their dogs and cats microchipped and by supporting charitable
- 2 organizations that provide microchipping services.

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