

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 introduced, 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 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 \$290 million dollars annually, only 13 percent of
4 these animals find their way home, and over half are euthanized
5 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 did not have identification,
9 the shelters were unable to reunite the animals with their owners;
10 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
14 slip out of an open door and disappear and if the pet is wearing a
15 collar and identification tag, chances are much improved that the

1 pet will make it back home, but if the collar slips off, the pet may
2 face euthanasia within 72 hours of separation; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
35 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature of the State of California
36 declares July 7, 2011, to be Microchip Your Animal Day 2011 in
37 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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