

ORDINANCE NO. 23-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE MICROCHIPPING OF IMPOUNDED ANIMALS

WHEREAS, the City of West Lafayette has an interest in providing for the humane treatment of stray, neglected and abused animals, and for the health and protection of West Lafayette residents; and

WHEREAS, the Almost Home Humane Society receives an average of 150 lost pets per year from the City of West Lafayette; and

WHEREAS, more than 20% of animals impounded at the Almost Home Humane Society have been previously impounded at the facility; and

WHEREAS, a microchip is a very small cylindrical device that can be implanted underneath the skin of an animal and be activated by a scanner to provide a unique, preprogrammed identification number; and

WHEREAS, the Almost Home Humane Society has found that microchipping is a very useful tool in quickly reuniting animals and their owners and is more reliable than collars or identification tags; and

WHEREAS, microchipping is a safe procedure based on the experience of the Almost Home Humane Society in implanting more than 12,000 microchips over that past nine years and based on information from organizations like the American Veterinary Medical Association and the World Small Animal Veterinary Association.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WEST LAFAYETTE that:

CHAPTER 61, Section 06 of the West Lafayette City Code is amended as follows, effective upon adoption:

Sec. 61.06. Enforcement of chapter; impounding of animals found at large.

(a) It shall be the duty of the chief of police or any assistants to enforce the provisions of this chapter and at their discretion to order the impoundment of all animals at large not conforming to this chapter. Such impounded animals may be redeemed by the owner within four days by the payment to the city of a redemption fee of ten dollars for the first offense and twenty dollars for each successive offense in the same calendar year, plus the humane shelter or hospital boarding **and microchip implant** fees accumulated over the period during which the animals were impounded. A further requirement for release of canines is that the owner shall produce and have attached to the dog a city license tag as provided under § 61.04.

(b) If a dog has not been inoculated against rabies, as required for licensing, the dog will be released to the owner, who has forty-eight hours to meet this requirement and obtain a license. If this is not done the owner shall be ordered to appear in city court to answer charges of violation of this chapter.

(c) The city will provide the necessary receipts to the owner. Upon presentation of the required receipts, the dog shall be released from impoundment to the owner.

(d) All impounded dogs not redeemed within four days may be destroyed in a humane manner.

(e) All fees paid to the city shall revert to the general fund.

(f) An animal impounded under this chapter shall be microchipped, unless a veterinarian provides a written statement indicating the animal should not be microchipped due to health reasons.

(g) The animal shelter or hospital that has custody of the impounded animal may decline to release an animal until the shelter or hospital receives sufficient proof of assurances that the animal has received or will receive a microchip implant that contains ownership information for the animal. Alternatively, the shelter or hospital may provide the animal with a microchip implant and charge the owner a reasonable fee for the service. However, a shelter or hospital may not exercise its discretion under this subsection if a veterinarian provides a written statement indicating the animal should not be microchipped due to health reasons.

(h) The chief of police or designee may make a warning of an ordinance violation conditional on an owner having the animal microchipped within a reasonable time as the chief of police or designee may specify.