NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino Josie Gonzales Fifth District

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JGFDS-PR-304 ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL DONATION APPROVED BY BOARD FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT DAN FLORES AT (909) 387-4565

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Board accepts nonprofit donation to Animal Care and Control Program

SAN BERNARDINO – San Bernardino County's Devore and Big Bear animal shelters will provide 5,000 animals with microchips at no cost to adoptive and reunited families. The microchips are in part of a \$36,079 donation accepted by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors at Tuesday's board meeting.

The donation comes from the Animals aRe First Fund (ARFF), a nonprofit organization that supports the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health, Animal Care and Control (ACC) Program.

"Today's contribution to the County is made possible due to the many contributions received by County employees and members of the general public who wish to help homeless animals in the County. ARFF has more than 400 County employees who donate each pay period to provide financial support to ARFF," said Brian Cronin, President of ARFF and Chief of San Bernardino County Animal Care and Control. "This donation is the result of our Countywide Vision in action—those in the public and private sector have worked together to aid those we serve within County. Our donors are truly the unsung heroes that help these animals in need."

Microchips offer a safe method to identify an animal's owner by using a unique identification number assigned to the implanted microchip. Through this service, the ACC Program will further assist in the reunification of lost pets that may otherwise be impounded at animal shelters.

"The stress of losing a pet can be traumatic for a family or individual. Offering these microchips to pet owners is another way San Bernardino County is improving the health and well being of not just our residents, but their beloved companions too," said Supervisor Josie Gonzales.

ARFF is non-profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that has been established to raise financial support and resources for the many homeless animals that arrive at County Animal Shelter facilities. To support a homeless animal this holiday season please visit ARFF's website at: www.arffund.org or call (800) 472-5609.