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The Burleson Animal Shelter is now offering microchipping services to pets of City residents.

All pets that are adopted from the Burleson Animal Shelter are microchipped. Some of those new owners have asked the City if they can get their other four-legged friends implanted with microchips at the shelter. The cost is \$15 per animal and the owner must be a resident of the City to use the service. The pet's owner must provide proof of rabies vaccination to get the microchip.

The microchip is made by 24 PetWatch. Animal microchips are about the size of a grain of rice and typically are implanted just beneath the surface of the skin between the shoulder blades. The process is similar to receiving a needle vaccination.

Each chip has a unique identification number that links a pet to the owner's personal information so if a dog or cat is lost, chances of being reunited with the owner are good.

A veterinarian, animal shelter or humane society can use a scanner to read a pet's chip. The staff then calls 24Pet Watch Lost Recovery Service with that registered chip number. 24PetWatch gives the staff the owner's information, and the staff contacts the owner.

Kim Peckler, animal control supervisor for the City, said her staff was involved in a heartwarming reunion a few months ago.

"We had someone turn in a shepherd that they had found. When we scanned the dog it had a microchip. This dog has been missing for several months, but we were able to return the dog to its owner because it had that microchip," Peckler said. "The owners said the dog had a collar and tags on it when they lost it, so if not for the microchip this dog and the owners would not have been reunited."

Collars and tags can be removed or get lost and tattooing of the pet can become illegible. The microchip is the only permanent way of identifying a dog or cat, and it lasts the lifetime of that pet.

If a pet gets lost after it has been implanted with the microchip, call 24PetWatch at 1-866-597-2424. You should also go to the City website, www.burlesontx.com, to fill out a lost pet report, and contact the Burleson Animal Shelter at 817-426-9280 or 817-426-9283 every day to find out if your pet has been found. The Burleson Animal Shelter is located at 775 S.E. John Jones Dr. Hours of operation are 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Tuesday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturday.