



## COUNTY ATTORNEY

Fort Bend County, Texas

**BRIDGETTE SMITH-LAWSON**  
COUNTY ATTORNEY

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## REVIEW FORM

On March 1, 2023, the County Attorney's Office reviewed the following:

Fort Bend County Animal Services Proposal for Microchip As Licensing Pilot Program.

No legal review necessary. The aforementioned terms of Pilot Program has been acknowledged.

### NOTICE TO DEPARTMENT

Please be advised that this document was reviewed for legal form only. Please keep in mind that there may be special conditions included in the grant award/agreement that create specific obligations for the department in administering this grant funded program. It is incumbent upon the department to read through all terms and conditions associated with the grant to ensure full compliance with all federal requirements.

In addition, please remember to submit a copy of this grant award/agreement with any requests for subsequent purchases made for goods or services using funds from this grant award in order to ensure that all appropriate clauses are added to any agreements with contractors or vendors.

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**FORT BEND COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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LaNetra S. Lary,  
Assistant County Attorney

## **FORT BEND COUNTY ANIMAL SERVICES**

### **PROPOSAL FOR MICROCHIP AS LICENSING PILOT PROGRAM (updated 2023)**

#### Background:

The goal of licensing pets was to comply with laws and ordinances with regard to rabies vaccinations, regulating the quantity of animals in the county and to track unsterilized animals. However, it is not proving to be an efficient program if we are not tracking those licenses and people are not renewing them. For FY2022, only 319 new licenses were issued by FBCAS. In 2020 it was 362 and 2021, 443.

#### Pilot Program:

The pilot program will cover residents who live in the unincorporated area of Fort Bend County. The goal of the program is to help owners protect and identify their lost pet. Given that the numbers of registered pet owners continues to decline, the hope is that the replacement of a license with a microchip would increase the return to owner and return in field numbers which will be for the life of the pet, no need for renewal.

The program will also have an added data point to track in that we are offering to waive reclaim fees for any pet that comes in with a microchip issued under this program.

#### Process:

Microchips will be offered to the residents of unincorporated Fort Bend County during the pilot program, which will run through December 2023.

For this program, we will be utilizing a grant from Houston PetSet through Fort Bend PAWS to purchase the initial set of microchips (1500 chips). We will conduct public microchip clinics throughout unincorporated Fort Bend County to offer these chips for a pilot program purchase price of \$5 which will then be used to purchase additional chips once the program becomes permanent.

We will work with the County Attorney's office to develop a waiver for the public to sign prior to having their microchips inserted.

#### Data:

Working with Chameleon, we will be able to set up a report that will allow us to track if we pick up pets with the chips that we are issuing both through our normal RTO offering and through this program.