Kalamazoo County Helps Lost Pets Return Home With Free Microchips and Scanners

KALAMAZOO, Mich. – Thanks to a $5,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the commitment of the Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement Department, lost pets now have a significantly better chance of finding their way back to their owners.

The MDARD grant allowed the County to gift eight microchip scanners to local law enforcement agencies, enhancing their ability to swiftly match lost animals with their families. The scanners are now in use by:

- The City of Kalamazoo,
- Kalamazoo Township,
- The City of Portage,
- The Village of Vicksburg,
- The Village of Richland, and
- The Kalamazoo County Sheriff's Office.

In addition, the County is providing 625 microchips free of charge to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

"With the rising number of animals entering our facilities over the past couple of years, this grant gives a crucial boost to our community's resources," said Chad Ensign, Animal Services & Enforcement Director. "By equipping local law enforcement with microchip scanners and offering free microchips to the community, we're making it easier to reunite lost pets with their families right on the spot."

The Kalamazoo County Dispatch Authority is aware that these agencies have scanners, which allow them to dispatch non-emergency calls if a report comes in after hours or on holidays.

"We frequently receive calls from patrols after hours that locate dogs while patrolling, and this enables them to take immediate action since Animal Control Officers are only called out for emergency situations. However, it is still important to report lost and found animals to KCASE when holding a found animal."

What to do if you lose a pet:

- Call 269-383-8775 to report the lost pet to KCASE. Owners may also submit a lost or stolen pet report online. Please be aware that KCASE staff cannot say over the phone if a lost pet is at the shelter. Owners will need to come in to identify the pet.

- Check KCASE's website daily for a list of found pets. Note that animals in the shelter are kept for seven days before becoming eligible for adoption.
- If the pet is microchipped, call the microchip company and make a lost report with them.
- Report the pet missing to its veterinarian, or any vet clinics in the area where the pet was lost.

What to do if you find a lost pet:

- Call 269-383-8775 to report the found pet to KCASE.
- Submit a found pet report online.
- Use the online Kalamazoo County dog license search to retrieve current owner information.
- Bring the pet to KCASE or a local vet to scan for a microchip.

To further assist pet owners, KCASE hopes to provide pet owners with even more opportunities to take advantage of the free microchips with a future microchipping clinic.

For more information on microchip distribution, contact the Kalamazoo County Animal Services & Enforcement Department at 269-383-8775.

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