

## **Washington State Veterinary Medical Association (WSVMA)**

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Subject: Alert - Current concerns over microchip implantation and cancer

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### **Advice about current concerns over microchip implantation and cancer**

Current studies being widely reported in popular media are warning of a risk to pets and by extension people from implanted microchips.

The studies being reported on by media were conducted in rodents and did not meet a sound scientific approach necessary to begin issuing legitimate product safety warnings. Any indication of any significantly increased risks to pets is at best, premature and at worst, totally uncalled for at this time.

For decades, there have been competent scientific reports of cancer caused by almost any manner of implant or foreign object within the body of animals and people. What is important is that close examination reveals the risk to animals is so extremely low as to be non-existent for any practical purpose, especially any risk from microchipping. This includes cases referenced by media currently.

Positive identification of companion animals is essential for reuniting lost pets with their owners. Microchips are but one way to accomplish this and is the most safe and secure method versus tags and collars or tattoos.

The risk of a pet being separated from its owner with all attendant hazards is tremendously greater than any known risk for cancer formation from any approved veterinary implant known at this time including microchips.

At this time and despite current media activity, there is no competent medical reason to recommend not placing a microchip in a pet.

Recommending against microchip implantation in a pet due to current concerns for cancer may be placing companion animals at a greater risk to their health and well-being when considering pets separated from their owners without positive identification.

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