

ORDINANCE NO. 3827

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF DODGE CITY ADDING SECTION 129 TO
CHAPTER TWO ARTICLE ONE OF THE CITY CODE**

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes the importance of promoting responsible pet ownership within the community; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission seeks to reduce the number of stray animals, improve the return rate of lost pets to their owners, and alleviate the burden on local animal shelters and animal control services; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission finds that requiring the microchipping of dogs and cats is in the best interest of public safety, animal welfare, and community resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF DODGE CITY, KANSAS:

SECTION 1: PURPOSE AND SCOPE.

The purpose of this ordinance is to establish a requirement for the mandatory microchipping of dogs and cats over the age of three (3) months within the city limits of Dodge City. This ordinance is intended to enhance the identification and recovery of lost pets, promote responsible pet ownership, and support the efficient operation of animal control and shelter services.

SECTION 2: PROVISIONS.

Section 129 shall read as follows:

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to own, keep, or harbor any dog or cat over the age of three months that has not been implanted, at the owner's expense, with a registered microchip. The microchip shall contain identifying information linking the animal to its owner and shall be registered with a recognized national database.
- (b) An exemption to this requirement may be granted if a licensed veterinarian determines that the implantation of a microchip would be detrimental to the health or well-being of the animal. In such cases, the owner must provide written documentation from the veterinarian stating the specific medical reason for exemption.

SECTION 3: ENFORCEMENT.

Failure to comply with this section shall be considered a violation of the city's animal control regulations. Penalties for non-compliance shall be consistent with existing penalties related to failure to register an animal, as outlined in the current city code in section 2-200.

SECTION 4: SEVERABILITY.

If any section, provision, sentence, clause, or phrase of this Ordinance, or if its application in a specific instance is found to be invalid, the remainder of such Ordinance and its application shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5: EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Ordinance shall take effect from and following its publication in the official city newspaper as provided by law.

**PASSED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF DODGE CITY, KANSAS IN
REGULAR SESSION, AND APPROVED BY THE MAYOR, THIS _____ DAY OF
_____, 20__.**

JEFFERY J. REINERT, MAYOR

ATTEST:

CONNIE MARQUEZ, CITY CLERK