



## San Marcos Animal Ordinance 2009

### Frequently Asked Questions:

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*Question: Why is the City revising the Animal Ordinance?*

**Answer: Our goal is to update the Animal Ordinance to coincide with State Law, to increase the safety and health of pets (and people!) in San Marcos, and to increase the numbers of lost or abandoned dogs and cats that are returned home or adopted.**

*Question: What are some of the key provisions of the ordinance?*

- **Requires pets to be microchipped and registered one time**
- **Prohibits sale or giving away of animals on public property, private parking lots and flea markets**
- **Restricts, but does not prohibit, the tethering of animals in accordance with State Law**
- **Sets forth rules for managed feral cat colonies**
- **Requires rabies vaccinations to meet State Law—in most cases, once every three years instead of annually**
- **Revises dangerous dog provisions in accordance with State Law**

*Question: Will a microchip track my animal?*

**Answer: No, a microchip can only be read from several inches away. It is not a G.P.S. tracking device, it is a passive radio identifier.**

*Question: Does my animal need to be sedated to implant the chip?*

**Answer: No, it is as simple as giving a shot.**

*Question: Where does the chip go?*

**Answer: The chip is implanted between the shoulder blades, in the same area that the animal receives its vaccinations.**

*Question: Are there health risks to my pet with a microchip?*

**Answer: No. Side effects are extremely rare. The most important benefit is the opportunity to recover a lost or stolen pet more easily.**

*Question: What is the registration process?*

**Answer:** There are two registrations that are important. The first is the microchip national registration. This allows your pet nationwide protection, but you must fill out and return the form provided by the manufacturer. The second is the city registration. This is a local database that is replacing the pet license that we currently require. It will be available on line and at the shelter.

*Question: What does a microchip cost and where do I get one?*

**Answer:** The cost for the chip varies between \$10 and \$60. It is available at local veterinarians or at the Animal Shelter. We will be having special discounted rates in the upcoming weeks, so check with the shelter. Some local veterinarians are offering special rates now, so give them a call.

*Question: How often does my animal have to be vaccinated for Rabies?*

**Answer:** The initial rabies vaccination must be by four months of age and then they must have a booster within the twelve months after the initial vaccination. After that, the animal may receive the vaccination once every three years or in accordance with your veterinarian.

*Question: What is the number of pets allowed?*

**Answer:** You may have four dogs and three cats for a maximum number of seven. You may apply for a multi-pet permit to have more than this.

*Question: Where can I get more information?*

**Answer:** Information and the text of the ordinance is available online at [www.sanmarcostx.gov](http://www.sanmarcostx.gov) or call the San Marcos Animal Shelter at 512-805-2650.

*Question: When does the ordinance take effect?*

**Answer:** April 1, 2009