



Making Sense of Microchips

By Shelagh MacDonald

If your pet has a microchip, or you are thinking of microchipping your pet, there are some things you need to know about the microchip market. Modern technology is a wonderful thing, but everyone needs to be talking the same language.

A microchip is a transponder the size of a grain of rice that is injected just under the skin, usually between the shoulder blades, like a vaccination. It carries a unique identification number that is recorded in a database with contact information for the animal's owner so that the animal can be returned home if he or she becomes lost.

In 1995, the National Companion Animal Coalition established the Canadian standard for microchip technology in this country. That standard modelled what was in place in Europe at that time, called the FECAVA standard, which



recognized a chip that emits a signal at 125 kilohertz. The goal was to establish a widely accepted standard in Canada that would create a sound recovery network for lost pets. The NCAC Canadian standard has been very successful, with chips made by all the major manufacturers being readable by scanners from other manufacturers.

Fortunately, this has avoided the kind of disjointed situation that resulted in the US marketplace, where a number of companies have been selling chips that are incompatible with scanners made by other manufacturers. Obviously, this means that, for some animals, their microchip would not help to reunite them with their families.

Over the last several years the new ISO (International Standards Organization) technology has become the standard in Europe and other parts of the world. The ISO chip emits a signal at 134 kilohertz, therefore, requiring a scanner or reader that can read that frequency. Manufacturers began making universal readers that would read both frequencies. However, in order



to protect the soundness of the recovery network, it is crucial that all humane societies, SPCAs, rescue organizations, pounds and veterinarians have universal readers so that no microchipped pet falls through the cracks.

Unfortunately, the horse got out of the barn before all the pieces were in place. Even though they did not meet the Canadian standard, some microchip manufacturers began promoting and selling ISO chips in Canada a few years ago. The NCAC is not a regulatory body so had no authority to prevent this. Members of the Coalition have been urging their members to upgrade their readers to universal capability as soon as possible.

The NCAC has been cautious about moving too quickly to adopt the ISO technology as the

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Animal Welfare
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Another Year, Another Bill?

By Tanya O'Callaghan
Communications Coordinator

The amendments to the animal cruelty sections of the *Criminal Code*, last known as Bill C-22, died on the order paper when Parliament prorogued for last Spring's federal election. Since then, Justice Minister Irwin Cotler has repeatedly expressed his support for the legislation, and has promised to reintroduce it – although at time of printing, he had yet to follow through on that promise.



In early February, Liberal Senator John Bryden introduced Private Senator's Bill S-24, his own version of a Bill to amend the federal cruelty provisions. Bill S-24 contains the same wording of the current *Criminal Code* that was written in 1892, but with tougher penalties taken from C-22. The Senator's bill maintains the loopholes, ambiguities and insufficiencies that exist in the current law and which often allow serious animal abusers to escape prosecution. It continues to make distinctions between classes of animals (offering particular protection to cattle, and specific references to dogs and birds); it fails to adequately protect wildlife; and still makes reference to the offence of "willful neglect," which is nearly impossible to prove.

Senator Bryden's bill cannot be allowed to pass into law.

The CFHS is urging all Canadians to write to Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, requesting him to re-introduce Bill C-22 as quickly as possible. Visit www.cfhs.ca/CriminalCode/index.htm to download a sample letter, and get the latest updates on the Bill.

Send your letters to Minister Cotler at:

The Honourable Irwin Cotler
Minister of Justice
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6
Tel: 613-995-0121
Fax: 613-992-6762
Cotler.I@parl.gc.ca



You can also contact your local Member of Parliament to encourage them to support the reintroduction of Bill C-22, and to oppose Senator Bryden's Bill S-24 if it makes its way to the House of Commons.

The CFHS voiced its strong opposition to Senator Bryden's bill in a letter distributed to all Members of Parliament and Senators (the letter is available on the CFHS website).

Good For Life™

IAMS® BE KIND TO ANIMALS WEEK

May 1st to 7th

Get your kids involved!

Canadian kids enrolled in Kindergarten to Grade 8 are invited to join Iams' Be Kind to Animals Week activities from home or through their schools!

Take time this week to teach your little ones about preventing dog bites and appropriate ways to act around strange dogs; or, download the BKAW activities for older kids, on subjects that include the role of a humane society in your community, the life of puppy mill dogs, or farm animal welfare.

And, all kids are also invited to round out their Iams Be Kind to Animals Week activities by participating in one of our great contests:

- Kids in Kindergarten to Grade 2 and in Grades 3 to 5 can participate in one of two drawing contests!
- Kids in Grade 6 to 8 can put their writing skills to the test by creating a slogan or poem to appear on all Iams Be Kind to Animals Week 2006 materials!

Visit www.bekindtoanimals.ca to view all the contest information, or call 1-888-678-2347 for more information!



Fashion Friends

This May will be the perfect time to pick up the Spring's latest fashion accessory, while supporting the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies!



As part of its generous support of Be Kind to Animals Week, the Iams Company is launching a fundraising charm bracelet, specially designed by Canadian designer Jeanne Lottie!

The dangling charm bracelet – a must-have accessory this season – is detachable and can double up as an accessory for your dog's collar, or a child's zipper pull... the sky's the limit!

At least \$4 from the sale of each charm bracelet will be donated to the CFHS to help us develop more national programs to support our member societies and to help educate the Canadian public on various issues of animal welfare.

The Be Kind to Animals Week bracelet is available from participating Iams retailers, such as pet specialty stores. You can also order yours on-line by visiting www.bekindtoanimals.ca.

shelters helping shelters

This Spring, the CFHS is hosting the next edition of its CEO Summit, a national forum to allow top managers of shelters across the country to share experiences, ideas, and challenges of sheltering in Canada.

One of these “hot topics” is how some humane societies are providing assistance to certain parts of the country, including rural or northern communities, that face particular difficulties. We’ve provided a few examples to highlight and promote the cooperation between Canadian animal shelters.

The Alberta SPCA and municipal humane societies

By Tim Battle, Director of Education and Communications, Alberta SPCA

The Alberta SPCA hosts an annual workshop for municipal humane societies and animal shelters around the province. These events are greatly appreciated by front line workers who often feel isolated within their own communities. The workshops provide a valuable opportunity for staff and volunteers to mix and meet with others who face similar challenges, compare notes, learn from one another and discuss issues such as “no-kill” policies and ways to increase adoption rates. The first workshop was held in 2003 in conjunction with a family violence conference and featured the Latham Foundation’s Phil Arkow as the main presenter. Last year’s workshop, co-hosted by the Red Deer and District SPCA, featured speakers from around Alberta presenting topics such as legal issues, compassion fatigue and volunteer management. The next workshop will feature Dr. Randall Lockwood of the Humane Society of the United States. This workshop, to be held November 4 in Edmonton, will explore the link between animal cruelty and human violence.

In Alberta, the provincial SPCA doesn’t have local chapters; each municipal-based SPCA/humane society is a distinct organization. The Alberta SPCA encourages groups wishing to start a humane society in their community by offering information on how to establish and register a society. The Alberta SPCA also offers humane education workshops for municipal-based groups, and is frequently called upon for advice on topics such as education, volunteer programs, animal protection legislation and fundraising.

Ontario SPCA Spay North Program helps northern communities

By Christine Arnett, Director of Communications and Marketing, Ontario SPCA

On November 14, 2004 Alison McAllister, Ontario SPCA Regional Inspector (North) and Spay North Team Leader, led eight team members to two isolated communities in northern Ontario to provide a spay/neuter and vaccination clinic for pets and stray dogs.



The Challenge

Many isolated northern communities do not have veterinary services. This presents a serious animal welfare challenge — animals multiply in large numbers, creating escalating pet overpopulation problems. Hungry, sick and injured stray dogs roam freely and struggle for survival, eventually suffering tragic deaths such as by starvation or disease. The Spay North team, which included a veterinarian, three veterinary technicians, two educators, two animal control officers, and a team leader, journeyed to Moose Factory and Moosonee —located at the southern shore of James Bay, 185 miles north of Cochrane — to carry out a pilot program designed to help address these animal welfare issues, and serve as a model for other isolated northern communities facing the same issues.

The Outcome

Through the Spay North Program, 55 animals (47 dogs and eight cats) were spayed/neutered and 117 were vaccinated. Dr. Jouppi, the veterinarian,

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News From the Farm



Fire prevention program now available

The CFHS recently completed the latest step in its efforts to improve the care of livestock in emergency situations with the launch of its information packages on barn fire prevention and response.

Each year hundreds of thousands of livestock animals are lost to barn fires. Not only do these animals suffer and die in horrible pain, but their losses cost farmers millions of dollars in lost revenue and often take years to recoup from insurance companies that consider animals assets instead of living beings. Furthermore, insurance payouts can be slow, often up to 18 months, frequently resulting in bankruptcy for farmers without sufficient saved resources to pay employees or replenish their stock during that time.



Preplanning, training, and preparation can help to prevent tragedy, speed response times, and save human and animal lives if the worst happens. Yet many of the simplest protection and prevention techniques recommended by farm and fire experts across the country and the world are not currently standard farm practice.

The CFHS partnered with the Ontario Horse Racing Industry Association, to research and implement a new barn fire prevention strategy. The result has been the development of materials for use by humane societies, industry groups, insurance companies and individual farmers to help prevent future tragedies.

Visit www.cfhs.ca/Programs/index.htm, to download the factsheet on Fire-Safe Farm Building and Renovation, the factsheet on Fire Safety Tips for Farm Management and a Fire Safety Poster.

Farm research continues

Over the past year, the CFHS carried out in-depth research into animal welfare concerns, primarily affecting pigs and poultry. As a result, we have adopted certain specific recommendations that, if implemented, would ensure these animals are treated humanely and with dignity.

In the meantime, the CFHS will continue to work with industry groups towards the development of verifiable standards for all farm animals.

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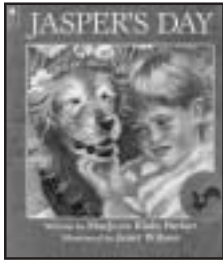


If you think animals are safe around water, think again. Many pets will panic, get tangled in the pool cover or be unable to climb out, causing them to drown. That's why we're proud to offer the *Safety Turtle* by Terrapin Communications. The *Safety Turtle* has a sensor which attaches securely to your pet's collar and sounds an alarm at a base station the instant your pet falls into water. It's easily portable, works within 200 feet and one base station can be used with any number of *Turtle* sensors - best of all, no installation is required! See our website for accessories and order yours today.

For more information or to order, see our website at www.cfhs.ca

Book Reviews

by Tanya O'Callaghan



A beautiful story to help kids cope

Jasper's Day

By Marjorie Blain Parker
Illustrated by Janet Wilson
Kids Can Press
2002
ISBN: 1-55337-764-8



A booklet with bite

Meeting Milo

By Yvette Van Veen
and David J. Perks
2004, 30 p.
ISBN: 0-9735626-0-9

Any pet owner knows that it's never easy to prepare for the day when our beloved pets will leave us from old age, disease or accident. Such a loss can take its toll on the whole family, especially children.

Any parent trying to prepare their school-age child for the loss of a beloved pet may want to pick up *Jasper's Day*, the beautifully illustrated, simply written book about one boy's coming to terms with the death of his dog.

The story features Riley and his family on a special day – Jasper's Day. Riley and his parents stay home from work and school, and everything they do on this day will be to honour their old dog, whose cancer has reached a critical point. They visit his favourite stream, stop at the ice cream store and even pay a visit to Riley's grandparents' house.

At the end of the day, Riley's parents take Jasper to the vet, where he gently falls to sleep in their arms. When Riley's parents come home, the family gathers in the yard to bury Jasper with some of his favourite things.

Jasper's Day is unlikely to leave you dry-eyed, but this award-winning book provides parents with a great tool to introduce the subject of pet bereavement. Author Marjorie Blain addresses this difficult issue with grace, in a manner that can easily be understood by children and their families.

Preventing dog bites to children is top of mind these days, as horrible dog bite attacks continue to make headlines across the country.

Meeting Milo is an action-packed short story to help teach young children about appropriate behaviour around dogs. The simple story teaches parents and kids important tips they should know about preventing dog bites, such as refraining from hugging a dog, never taking a toy away from a dog, and acting calmly around dogs.

The story is great for pre-school, kindergarten or early-elementary aged children. Pages are filled with big, bright illustrations and the short text is simple, and printed in large font (though the younger set will likely need to be read to).

For parents or educators who want to take dog bite prevention one step further, a *Meeting Milo* workbook is also available. The activities include a word search, true or false questions, colouring activities and other word games. The workbook is most appropriate for school-age children, and will likely help them better understand the lessons taught in *Meeting Milo*.

Meeting Milo is available through www.MeetingMilo.com.



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Making Sense of Microchips - Continued from page 1

Canadian standard, for fear of putting lost pets at risk of not being recoverable if they turn up at a shelter that doesn't have a universal reader.

The NCAC now feels the time is right to introduce ISO as the new Canadian standard.

February to August 2005 will be a transition period when both FECAVA and ISO chips will be accepted under the Canadian Standard. After August 1st, only ISO microchips will meet the Canadian standard.



Pet owners who are acquiring a pet that is microchipped should ensure the animal has an ISO chip in order to comply with the Canadian standard. The same advice goes for anyone planning on having their existing pet microchipped. If your pet already has a FECAVA chip you won't need to get an additional ISO chip because the universal readers will all read the old chips.

A microchip is the best form of permanent identification for your pet. However, don't forget that you should also provide a collar and tag with contact information for you or your veterinarian in case your pet is picked up by a neighbour rather than ending up at a shelter or other rescue agency. Another good option is to register your pet with Petlynx (www.petlynx.net) which accepts microchip information, tattoo, description and/or photo of your pet.

*The NCAC was formed in 1996, interestingly, with the sole purpose of establishing a standard for microchip technology. The group now works together on companion animal issues of mutual interest, such as municipal animal control bylaws, dog bites and puppy mills. Joining the CFHS on the



Coalition are the Canadian Kennel Club, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association and the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council of Canada.

Reprinted from *Pets Quarterly Magazine*, Spring 2005 issue.

Shelters Helping Shelters - Continued from page 5

believes that the spay/neuter of 47 dogs in the community will prevent the birth of an additional 500 to 1,000 dogs over the next year. Additionally, team members involved in animal control captured many dogs running at large in the community. Some of the dogs were returned to their owners and 16 were surrendered to the Ontario SPCA and sent to adoption centres throughout the province.

Education team members attended five local schools to speak to students about humane treatment of animals and dog-bite prevention. One high school student assisted the team with operations at the clinic and attended a dog-bite prevention session with the future goal of delivering the program herself in the community.

The people of Moose Factory and Moosonee are delighted their communities participated in the Spay North Program. They played a vital role, providing assistance with accommodation, meals and transportation, and facilitating clinic appointments, animal health and care education, dog-bite prevention sessions in the schools and dog training sessions.

The CFHS would like to thank the following organizations:

The Iams Company, for its support of Be Kind to Animals Week and the annual CEO Summit

Hartz Co. for its continued financial support of the CFHS and member societies

PetsMart Charities, for its support of the CEO Summit

Johnson Insurance, for its support of Be Kind to Animals Week and the annual CEO Summit

Clicker Puppy Training Video

Clicker Puppy is a fun, all positive training tool. The training is all hands-off with positive reinforcement to encourage the desired behaviour. Clicker Puppy makes training so easy that the DVD features children training the puppies. The puppies are all having fun and learning at an astonishing rate! Find out how easy it is to take natural puppy behaviour and clicker train your way to an obedient dog.



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Thanks!

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Watch for our new website starting June 2005!

Thanks!

CFHS would like to thank Storm Internet for hosting its website and providing email service for the office



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