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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Pet ‘Microchipping’ Offered Sunday

On **Sunday, October 1st**, Snohomish County truly goes to the dogs (and cats too); particularly for those whose owners would rather not lose them. The first **200** Snohomish County resident dogs and cats brought to the **Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe** starting at 10 a.m. will receive free microchip implants identifying the pet’s owner’s name and contact information, ensuring that a lost animal gets a quick ride home, instead of a trip to the local animal shelter.

The Evergreen State Fair is located at 14405 179th Ave SE – Monroe – 17 miles East of Everett on US Hwy 2.

Cats must be in a carrier and dogs must be on a leash. This program is available to Snohomish County residents only.

The free “microchipping” is the 7th such event sponsored by the Snohomish County Animal Advisory Board in conjunction with the Everett Animal Shelter and the County Auditor’s Licensing & Animal Services Division, with support from volunteer veterinarians and veterinary technicians.

“The goal of this program is to reduce shelter costs and promote responsible pet ownership”, said Vicki Lubrin, License Manager at Snohomish County. “Statistics have shown that 90% of microchipped pets are successfully reunited with their families”. “We want to thank the Evergreen State Fair management and staff for providing the space for this event”.

Licensing your pet is the quickest and most effective method to identify and reunite an animal and its owner. Microchipping provides assistance in the event the license tag and/or collar are lost. Finders of lost pets with a Snohomish County Regional Pet License tag can access owner information on licensed pets from the County Auditors page on the County website at www.co.snohomish.wa.us/auditor and by phone through an Interactive Voice Response System at 425-388-3627 - 24 hours a day.

The cost of providing animal shelter facilities impacts local governments and the most effective way to reduce sheltering costs is to reduce the number of animals being brought to the shelter by animal control agencies and the general public. Lost and/or stray pets and their owners can be reunited much sooner ultimately reducing the number of pets that end up in local shelters annually.

The cost of the microchips is being covered by the County's Animal Benefit Bequest Fund. The fund was established in 1999 to provide funding and support for programs, activities, equipment and/or facilities for the benefit of animals in Snohomish County. Resources for this fund are gathered from donations, gifts, and bequests by persons, businesses, and organizations. Your donation is welcome to help continue this free program.

Contact Snohomish County Animal Services Hotline is 425-388-3440 for all animal complaints in unincorporated Snohomish County or on-line at http://web5.co.snohomish.wa.us/AuditorApps/AudComp_PublicEntry/AudComp-05-EnterCompData.asp

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