

## **Forsyth County – New Scanner Announcement**

### **Grants Administration**

Grant Provides New Scanner for use at Forsyth County Animal Shelter Scanners help reunite pets and owners Forsyth County now has an additional scanner for use at the county's animal shelter, thanks to a grant from the American Kennel Club Companion Animal Recovery (AKC CAR). The AKC CAR donated the scanner, which will be used by the shelter staff to help reunite pets with their owners.

Scanners are used to read microchips, which are very small and are inserted just beneath the skin on the back of an animal's neck. The chips contain information about the chip type as well as an identification number. Upon scanning a chip and reading this data, a veterinarian or Animal Control Officer can contact the chip manufacturing company to obtain details such as the animal's name, owner, address and more. Chips are used in small, household pets as well as in animals such as horses and cattle. Having this information available makes it possible to return an animal back to its owner. The scanner received through the AKC CAR grant is universal, allowing it to read all types of chips. Some scanners only scan certain types of chips, but those in use by Forsyth County are considered universal and can scan all chips made today," Lt. David Waters of the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office Special Services Section, which oversees the Animal Control Unit, said. "This new scanner will enhance what we already had available and will allow us to scan more animals. It is important for citizens to know that we have the tools necessary to help reunite lost pets with their owners."

In addition to the scanning capabilities in place at the shelter, Forsyth County Animal Control officers are able to scan animals in the field. Four universal scanners are in place, one in each Animal Control vehicle, allowing officers to scan animals before transporting them to the shelter. "If we can return an animal back to its owner, we can save gas and time by not transporting the animal to the shelter, plus we are able to get a pet home to its family sooner," Lt. Waters said. "These new scanners will assist us greatly."

Lt. Waters stressed that when owners have their animal microchipped, it is important they notify the microchip manufacturing company as soon as possible. Providing the company with the chip's identification number, animal's name and owner's contact information is a vital step in the microchip process.

To receive additional information, contact Forsyth County Animal Control at 770.781.2138. For information on adopting a pet, call the Forsyth County Animal Shelter at 770.888.2500 or visit the shelter at 1904 Old Atlanta Road in Cumming.