



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®

May 13, 2013

The Honorable Phil Berger  
President Pro Tempore, North Carolina State Senate  
16 W. Jones Street, Room 2008  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

**Re: AKC Supports SB626 Amendment, Will Donate Microchip Scanners to NC Shelters**

Dear President Berger and Members of the North Carolina State Senate:

The American Kennel Club (AKC) writes on behalf of the thousands of responsible North Carolina dog owners to express our support for Senate Bill 626, as amended, which requires that shelters that have microchip scanners use that equipment to help reunite lost pets with their owners.

The AKC greatly appreciates the work of Senator Jackson and Senator McKissick on this measure and their willingness to allow SB 626 to be amended. We believe the amendment will go a long way to helping public shelters in our state – both by returning lost pets to their homes and reducing the amount of time and expense that public shelters incur by housing lost pets.

SB 626 as amended does not create a new unfunded mandate, but would require shelters to use available means at hand to help locate the owners of lost pets. The AKC recognizes that not all shelters can afford these scanners. For this reason, AKC and AKC Companion Animal Recovery (CAR) are pleased to donate 20 universal microchip scanners to public shelters in North Carolina that could not otherwise afford this equipment.

For over 125 years, the American Kennel Club has promoted the study, breeding, exhibiting, and advancement of purebred dogs. As the world's largest not-for-profit purebred dog registry, the AKC represents 143 dog clubs in the state of North Carolina, and thousands of North Carolina residents and taxpayers. The AKC's Operations Center is located in Raleigh and currently employs more than 200 North Carolinians who work to protect the health and welfare of all dogs, the rights of dog owners, and promote the ideals of responsible dog ownership.

The American Kennel Club greatly appreciates this opportunity to work together to help public shelters and the wellbeing of all dogs in our state.

Sincerely,

Sheila Goffe  
Director, Government Relations