

OKINAWA BRANCH VETERINARY SERVICE MEMORANDUM

THRU

Commander, 18th Mission Support Group
FOR Commander, 18th Wing, Kadena Air Base

SUBJECT: Interim 18th Wing Policy Letter:
Mandatory Privately Owned Animal (POA) Microchip Program for Okinawa SOFA status personnel.

1. The implementation date for this mandatory POA microchip policy is 01 FEB 05.
2. This memorandum serves to outline the mandatory pet microchip program. This requirement will be incorporated into the 18th Wing Instruction 48-107, Animal Control, which is currently under revision.
3. The animal control regulation pertains to all U.S. military service members and other SOFA status personnel. Enforcement is provided by each installation's law enforcement officials and by the sponsor's command structure.
4. The purpose of the POA microchipping program is the following:
 - a. Assist in returning lost pets to their owners.
 - b. Decrease the incidence of pre-TDY or pre-PCS pet abandonment.
5. Handheld ISO-compatible universal microchip readers are available at the U.S. Army Okinawa Veterinary Service and Karing Kennels stray animal facility.
6. Mandatory POA microchip policies are as follows:
 - a. Microchip implantation is required in dogs and cats. The microchip must be able to be detected by an ISO-compatible universal microchip reader.
 - b. The Okinawa Veterinary Service will:
 1. Implant microchips in all new pets arriving on Okinawa at the time of their Government of Japan "End of Quarantine" examination.
 2. Implant microchips in all newly acquired pets.
 3. Ensure that all pets belonging to SOFA status personnel have a microchip during the animal's annual examination starting 01 FEB 05.
 - c. The Karing Kennels stray animal facility will:
 4. Ensure that every animal adopted from Karing Kennels has a microchip.
 5. Implant a microchip, at the owner's expense, in any impounded stray animal prior to releasing the pet to the owner.
7. Additional information:
 - a. The Government of Japan is currently revising pet importation regulations that will require a microchip be implanted in any pet prior to arrival in Japan .
 - b. Many countries already require microchip identification as part of their pet-importation regulations.
 - c. The majorities of military installations worldwide either already have, or are strongly considering, mandatory pet microchip policies.
8. Exception to policy:
 - a. If a SOFA status member has any objection to their animal having a microchip implanted, exception to policy must be requested and approved in writing through the Mission Support Group Commander.