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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CVMA Reminds Pet Owners that May is Microchip Your Pet Month**

*Chicago Veterinary Medical Association raises awareness of benefits regarding “chipping” pets*

The month of May is designated national “Chip Your Pet” month, which encourages responsible pet ownership by ensuring that beloved pets have been microchipped. Chicago Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) reminds pet owners that doing so helps increase the odds of reuniting them with their pets in the unfortunate event that their pet is lost or stolen.

“With the onset of spring, many owners and pets are enjoying the outdoors more frequently, which can lead to pets being separated from their owners,” explained Ray McGury, CVMA Executive Director. “Microchipping pets so that they can be scanned and returned to their owners more quickly helps ease some of the anxiety that occurs when a pet escapes and cannot be located.”

The microchipping service can be performed by most veterinary clinics. It also has several benefits that include:

- Owners and pets being reunited more quickly
- Microchips can have a long life (up to 25 years), which means that most pets need to be chipped only once
- The chip cannot get lost or be removed like a collar or tag
- Microchip information is entered into a nationwide database, which means that vacationing pets or those who have recently moved can be scanned

“Microchipping your pet is a relatively painless process that involves inserting the chip, which is about the size of a grain of rice, just under your pet’s skin,” explained Dr. Kirsten Plomin, CVMA Board President. “Once your

pet is chipped, however, it is important for owners to keep their microchip contact information up to date when they change their phone number or move residences. Not doing so needlessly complicates the process of trying to reconnect a pet with its owner.”

Owners considering chipping their pets should be aware of three key considerations. First, it is important to understand that a microchip is not a GPS and cannot help in locating a lost pet. Additionally, some chips require a specific kind of scanner, and although there are universal scanners, not all veterinary clinics have them. Lastly, pets can experience minor, temporary swelling at the insertion site.

CVMA encourages pet owners who have not microchipped their pets to contact their local veterinary provider to learn more about the process and carefully consider the merits of this important aspect of pet ownership.

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**About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association:** Chicago Veterinary Medical Association is a professional network with a longstanding tradition that connects more than 1,000 veterinarians with comprehensive resources that support their continued development as champions of animal health while encouraging the fostering of the human-animal bond.

**About the Chicago Veterinary Medical Foundation:** The CVMF, established in 2009, is a 501<sup>c</sup>3 charity that works with Chicagoland veterinarians to provide financial assistance to pet families in need by helping with the costs of their pet’s urgent, unexpected medical and surgical bills. The Foundation’s work plays a vital role in strengthening the human-animal bond by helping sick and suffering pets get well again.