



Society of Animal Welfare Administrators

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November 28, 2006

Chester A. Gibson
APHIS
Station 3C71
4700 River Road, Unit 118
Riverdale, MD 20737-1238

RE: Petition for Publication of a Federal Register Notice Soliciting Comments on the Need for the Adoption of the ISO standard as the National Standard for the Microchipping of Companion Animals for Identification

Dear Dr. Gibson:

The Coalition for Reuniting Pets and Families submitted a petition to you on September 5th, 2006, regarding their position on the above issue. Unfortunately, at that time, the Society of Animal Welfare Administrators was unable to be a signatory of the document.

The Board of the Society met on November 9th, at which time the Coalition's submission was considered. I am pleased to advise you that the Board unanimously supported the following, "**A Motion was Made, Seconded and Carried for SAWA to support the position of the Coalition for Reuniting Pets and Families in their efforts as submitted to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection service (APHIS) on September 5, 2006 and the Coalition's continuing efforts on this project.**"

Although we realise that the date for submissions has passed, we would appreciate that when considering the Coalition submission, you take into consideration our support for their document in its entirety.

The Society of Animal Welfare Administrators members represent Animal Care & Control and Humane Society professionals nationally. These members receive and care for millions of animals annually in their shelters. As such, they represent the front line in the "claims department" for lost pets and are charged with reuniting these lost pets with their guardian/owner.

The Society believes that a well-functioning system, as described in the Coalition's presentation will greatly enhance the opportunities for our members to reunite lost pets with their families.

Sincerely

Harold Dates,
President,
Society of Animal Welfare Administrators.

Don Mitton
Chairperson Issues Committee
Society of Animal Welfare Administrators