

On the Positive Side: Don't think that losing a pet can't happen to you

By Frank Bryce

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The following account received by the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico emphasizes the value of microchipping our companion animals. Peggy Rodriguez, a co-worker of HSSNM Board member Jamie Jones, shared the positive outcome of what she thought was perhaps an unnecessary action. She thought, "It can't happen to our pet."

Peggy writes: "Having had pets all my life, it seemed normal to just follow the rules when it came to regulations about chipping and keeping their vaccinations up to date. I mean who doesn't want to keep their loving four-legged companions for as long as possible? Never placing much importance on the "norm" really opened my eyes to a huge, not-good-at-all- surprise!

Don't ever be naïve and think that it couldn't possibly happen to you.

"Just like any ordinary day, I let my little indoor Yorkie mix of 5 and a half years out to take care of business. Didn't worry about much, as he had a pretty good sized yard that was fenced in and he was one to stay by the door barking until you let him back in. A few minutes later, I went to open the door and let him back in— and he was gone! I promise I made every attempt to find my darling little dog, but after a year, I started losing hope.

"Fast forward to Dec. 16, 2013. While at work, I receive a call from a local unknown number on my cell phone. I answered to some woman from an animal clinic in town stating she had a pet of mine that was reported lost some time ago. She just needed me to verify the pet's name, and after a long suspenseful hold, it was him! It was my Mikki. This whole time he was under the "care" of some people who overfed (table scraps) to him and didn't think twice about finding out if this adorable creature was being missed and sought after by the only family he ever knew.

"Please, please, please make sure get your pet chipped. I'll be honest, I thought microchipping was just a waste and an added expense that didn't even work. My entire perspective was altered the day I received the call that my dear little pooch had been found almost three years later.

"Thanks to the animal clinic involved, their appropriate scanning for a microchip and the proper registration of Mikki's microchip, Mikki was returned to his original loving home."

The new animal control ordinances that recently went into effect for Doña Ana County require microchipping of dogs and cats.

The microchipping can be done free through various animal advocacy group events. A \$7 donation is requested. It was reported that the Animal Service Center of Mesilla Valley will offer microchipping for \$10 to assist county pet owners to meet this new requirement.

On Jan. 27, the Las Cruces City Council will be discussing new city animal control ordinances that include a microchipping requirement for dogs and cats within the city. Please call and urge your councilor to support that requirement.

This will benefit pets, pet owners and the general public to safely and rapidly return pets to their proper home while reducing the costs of operation for animal control and the shelter. Urge the councilors to also adopt the "Community Cat" wording that has been adopted by the county. This also will require microchipping for the program being developed.

Frank Bryce is President of the Humane Society of Southern New Mexico. Interested guest authors should contact HSSNM at 575-523-8020.