

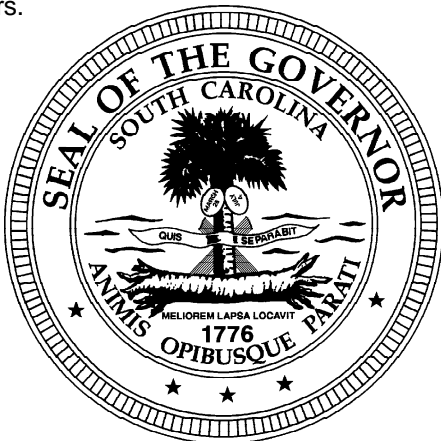
State of South Carolina
Proclamation
by
Governor Jim Hodges

- WHEREAS,** 95 percent of all lost pets in South Carolina are never returned home simply because they have no form of identification; and
- WHEREAS,** tragically, as a result of no ownership tags, these animals are too often euthanized; and
- WHEREAS,** rabies tags, license tags, microchips, and inexpensive identification tags available at pet and hardware stores, veterinary offices, and through the mail provide owners with the best chance of retrieving an animal if it strays; and
- WHEREAS,** as the only form of permanent identification, microchips make it easy for humane agencies and shelters to return lost pets to their owners through a simple scan that is already administered by law when an animal first arrives; and
- WHEREAS,** because of its effectiveness in reuniting owners and pets, many humane agencies and shelters throughout the Palmetto State microchip animals in their care before putting them up for adoption and offer microchip services at a reduced rate for economically-disadvantaged owners; and
- WHEREAS,** in recognition of the 2001 observance of "Tag Day", humane agencies and shelters, veterinary offices, and pet supply stores across the nation will participate in events designed to educate pet owners about the importance of identification tags in the retrieval of lost pets; and
- WHEREAS,** as the Humane Society of the Midlands, along with other humane agencies and shelters throughout South Carolina, celebrate "Tag Day", the citizens of the Palmetto State have a unique opportunity to work together to promote public awareness of pet identification options as a means of protecting the safety and well-being of animals in our care.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jim Hodges, Governor of the Great State of South Carolina, do hereby proclaim April 7, 2001, as

TAG DAY

throughout the state and encourage all South Carolinians to ensure that their pets wear proper identification, while working to raise awareness of the importance of identification tags in the return of pets to their owners.



Jim Hodges

Jim Hodges
Governor
State of South Carolina