

# Community Partnership Connection



## FREE MICROCHIPS!



LIMITED TIME ONLY!



Washoe County Regional Animal Services launched an unprecedented one-year microchipping campaign this month, offering free microchips to all Washoe County pet owners from February 2013 through January 2014.

“We want to give Washoe County residents an opportunity to microchip their pets for free over the next twelve months because we believe that microchipping is your pet’s best chance of returning home if it ever becomes lost,” Regional Animal Services Director Barry Brode said. “We have incredible stories about dogs and cats that were found hundreds of miles from home, or years after they became lost, that have been returned home amidst tears of joy thanks to successful microchipping programs.”

**Free microchips will be available at Regional Animal Services located at 2825-A Longley Lane from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).** To help reach as many pet owners as possible, Regional Animal Services will use their Mobile Command Center to staff regular field clinics in different Washoe County communities throughout the year. Go online at [www.washoanimals.com](http://www.washoanimals.com) for an updated list of locations, dates and times.

## Chihuahua missing for eight months returned to owners thanks to microchip



Solo's favorite blue blanket remained unused for eight months. The little Chihuahua's owners thought it would never be used again, but Juanita Avila held on to it anyway.

Last Friday, Solo, his owners and his blanket were joyfully reunited thanks to a microchip.

The three-year-old Chihuahua got out of Avila's Sparks home in May of 2012 and disappeared. Avila checked the Animal Services website daily hoping for news of her dog, but months went by without a word. "Everyone knew how sad I was," Avila said. "I thought about him every day and just hoped he was okay and that somebody was being good to him."

Avila had given up hope, but held on to Solo's blue blanket anyway. Then, last Friday, she got the call from Regional Animal Services. Solo had been found running down Fourth Street in Reno. Because Solo is licensed and has a microchip, getting the lost dog home was easy.

Avila said that her brother encouraged her to have Solo microchipped after the dog ran away on the Fourth of July in 2011. Thankfully, Solo was returned and Avila followed her brother's advice. Today, she is very happy that she did. "I believe in microchips now," she said. "I really do."

### What is a Microchip?



A microchip is a small, electronic chip enclosed in a glass cylinder about the size of a grain of rice. The microchip is activated by a scanner which receives information about the pet's owners and home from the chip.

In many cases, microchipped pets can be scanned in the field and returned to their homes without ever having to be brought to the shelter, reducing stress for the pet, the pet owner and the cost of operating Animal Services.

Once microchipped, Animal Services encourages pet owners to register their microchip online at [homeagain.com](http://homeagain.com) to ensure proper identification if the pet should ever become lost outside of Washoe County.

*To learn more about the benefits of microchipping, go to [www.washoesherriff.com](http://www.washoesherriff.com). Don't miss the video on "Splash" the cat!*

# Washoe County Sheriff's Volunteer Programs



Proper training can save lives and reduce trauma in the event of an emergency. One of the region's best opportunities for residents to receive emergency preparedness and response training is the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Academy offered by the Washoe County Sheriff's Office Citizen Corps over two weekends in mid-March.

CERT Academy training includes disaster preparedness, emergency medical techniques, fire safety, search and rescue, disaster psychology, and terrorism. Training is conducted by Citizen Corps staff and volunteers along with appropriate subject matter experts. The training is free and trainees are not required to become a Citizen Corps volunteer to participate.

The CERT Academy offers a total of 24 hours of training that takes place during six sessions over two consecutive weekends. Academy dates are:

**Thursday, March 7 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Friday, March 8, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
and Saturday, March 9 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**and**

**Thursday, March 14, from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Friday, March 15, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
and Saturday, March 16 from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

No special skills are required. Children 12-15 may participate with parent's supervision, teens 16-17 with parent's permission. To sign up for training, email: [drussell@washoecounty.us](mailto:drussell@washoecounty.us)

*The Community Emergency Response Team program is made possible by grants awarded by the Nevada Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management from the Homeland Security Grant Program and the Citizen Corps Grant Program. These funds make it possible to implement and support all of the Sheriff's Office volunteer Citizen Corps Programs.*



## Risk of Car Thefts Increase in Winter...

For those of us who have to warm up our cars on these frosty winter mornings, it is far too tempting to leave the vehicle unattended after we've started the engine. After all, it is frigid cold outside and we have so much to do before heading off to a day at work.

Unfortunately, cars that are left unattended with the engine on are also far too tempting a target for would-be thieves. As a result, vehicle thefts of this nature are not uncommon during the winter months. These thefts are, however, easily preventable.

Never leave your vehicle unattended with the engine running. It's simply not worth the risk.

**Washoe County Sheriff's Office-  
Community Relations**

911 E. Parr Boulevard  
Reno Nevada 89512  
P: 775.785.6228  
F: 775.785.6244

E-mail:  
[sheriffcommunityrelations@  
washoecounty.us](mailto:sheriffcommunityrelations@washoecounty.us)

Find us on the Web:  
[washoesheriff.com](http://washoesheriff.com)



*Dedicated Service in  
Partnership with our  
Community*

**RUN, RETREAT, RESIST!**

The Sheriff's Office has joined with KOLO TV – Channel 8 to provide you with valuable information that can help you cope with a workplace active assailant crisis situation, should one arise.



Be sure to watch **KOLO TV 8**  
on **February 25<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00pm

**FOUR IMPORTANT STEPS ALL IDENTITY THEFT  
VICTIMS SHOULD TAKE**

*(Information Courtesy of the Office of the Attorney General)*

1

**FILE A REPORT WITH YOUR LOCAL LAW  
ENFORCEMENT AGENCY AND APPLY FOR A NEVADA  
IDENTITY THEFT PROGRAM CARD.**

By filing a police report, you will be eligible to apply for the Nevada Identity Theft Program Card. This program will help you work with creditors and law enforcement to identify that you are the victim of alleged wrongdoing committed using your good name.

2

**CLOSE THE ACCOUNTS THAT YOU KNOW OR BELIEVE  
HAVE BEEN TAMPERED WITH OR WRONGFULLY  
OPENED.**

Call and speak with someone in the security or fraud department of the bank or credit card companies. Follow-up each call in writing and keep copies of these letters. If an identity thief has made charges to your account, ask the company to send you the forms to dispute the charges.

3

**PLACE A FRAUD ALERT OR FREEZE ON YOUR CREDIT  
REPORTS AND REVIEW YOUR CREDIT REPORTS.**

Fraud alerts can help prevent an identity thief from opening more accounts in your name. Contact one of the three credit reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian, or TransUnion) to place a fraud alert on your credit report. Once you request a fraud alert, you are entitled to a free credit report. Nevada law also allows victims of identity theft to request their credit records be frozen for free. The request must be made in writing to the three credit reporting agencies. The agencies have 5 days from receipt of the request to begin the freeze. The freeze ensures a consumer's credit information is not released and no new credit is issued without the consumer's approval.

4

**FILE A COMPLAINT WITH THE FEDERAL TRADE  
COMMISSION (FTC).**

Filing a complaint with the FTC will give law enforcement agencies across the nation important information to help them track down and stop identity thieves. The FTC may refer complaints to other agencies for further action, as well as investigate companies for violations of related laws. You can file a complaint on the FTC's website at [www.consumer.gov/idtheft](http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft)