



CITY OF WACO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Larry Holze, Public Information Officer

Municipal Information

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[www.waco-texas.com](http://www.waco-texas.com)

## Citizens Able to Bring Stray Animals to Local Fire Stations for Microchip Scanning

**Photo op. and Interviews (\*see list below):**

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. - Fire Station 5 (4515 Bagby Avenue)**

**WACO, TEXAS (September 29, 2020)**

The Waco Fire Department in partnership with our Animal Shelter partners, the Humane Society of Central Texas (HSCITX), are now able to scan any lost pet at local fire stations. The **'Fire House to Your House'** program begins this week to help animals who are lost reunite with their owners. Instead of bringing stray animals to our local shelter, this is a convenient way for citizens to provide a way to get lost animals in their neighborhood home quickly!

**Firefighters will be equipped to scan lost animals for microchips at their stations when they are not out responding to an emergency call. If the animal has a microchip, the information will be provided to the citizen, along with follow-up information about what to do next, even if the animal does not have a microchip!**

All microchip scanners were sponsored and donated locally to the HSCITX by Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Edwards Associates. Leslie Edwards, owner of the brokerage, tells us, "We were thrilled to take part in not only supporting this amazing community service provided by our Waco Firefighters, but also hopefully reuniting pets with owners. We couldn't pass up the opportunity to be involved. We (the citizens) really appreciate this effort by our Waco Fire Department."

"Our local fire stations are part of the neighborhood community they are located in. It's their home away from home. Supporting pet owners with this service and aiming to keep animals safely off the streets is exactly what our department is about. When an animal is lost in or around a neighborhood, we hope to find the owner when possible," said Chief Summers.



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Studies show that most lost animals are found within only 1,000 feet of their homes. Paula Rivadeneira, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Central Texas explains, “So many lost animals enter the shelter every day. If we can offer another option for those good Samaritans who are taking the time to try to find the owners of lost pets, we can reunite animals and their families faster without a trip to the shelter!”

**Microchipping your pet is the law in Waco** and helps to keep animals with their families. For a list of local fire stations, and for more about the program, visit [waco-texas.com/fire](http://waco-texas.com/fire).

**\*Available on-site for comment:**

**Chief Gregory Summers, Waco Fire Department (254) 750-1740**

**Leslie Edwards, Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate (254) 716-1132 (sponsor)**

**Phillip Burnett, Local 478 Fire Association President (254) 640-8440**

**Paula Rivadeneira, Executive Director, Humane Society of Central Texas (928) 247-5059**

**Jennifer Morris, Lead Animal Care Officer (845) 551-4213**

**Dori Helm, Asst. Director, Municipal Information (254) 750-8039**

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