



NORTH CAROLINA
STATE ANIMAL RESPONSE TEAM, Inc.

For Immediate Release
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**SART Launches Statewide
Micro-chipping Program for Hurricane Season**

The State Animal Response Team (SART) announces the launch a new program of low-cost micro-chipping clinics across North Carolina. This initiative is jointly sponsored by the American Kennel Club - Companion Animal Recovery, and Schering Plough Animal Health (SPA), the nation-wide distributor for *HomeAgain* microchips. These corporations have generously partnered with SART to make this low-cost program available. The program's goal is to microchip animals in twenty-five counties across the state by the end of the year, and clinics begin this weekend in Durham County.

During hurricanes and other disasters, animals are often displaced many miles from their home. A microchip allows displaced pets to be traced back to their owners using the nationwide American Kennel Club-Companion Animal Recovery system (AKC-CAR).

"We have seen the significant number of lost and never returned animals after natural disasters, and have been very involved in supporting the shelter community. This initiative provided a great way for Schering Plough Animal Health to help prevent this problem." said Gerry Bridge, *HomeAgain* Program Manager for SPAH.

SART has distributed "Micro-chipping Clinic Kits" to its County Animal Response Teams across the state. The clinics will be staffed entirely by SART volunteers, and will take place at fairs, pet stores and other events, targeting pet owners who typically would not use a veterinarian. The cost for micro-chipping the family pet at a veterinarian's office averages \$50.00, plus a \$12.50 registration fee. Through the generosity of the sponsoring corporations, and the SART veterinarians who will donate their services, these clinics will offer chipping for only \$20.00, including registration.

North Carolina is home to over 800 million agricultural animals and 2.6 million companion animals. However, AKC-CAR data indicates that only 56,000 of these have been enrolled in their program. Additionally, of our state's estimated 250,000 horses, only 167 have microchips registered with CAR. During 2001-2002, 9 microchip clinics were held in North Carolina by AKC affiliates, for an average of less than five per year. SART aims to increase the number of microchip clinics to 25 during 2003 to reach animals all across the state.

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Background:

The North Carolina **State Animal Response Team (SART)** is a private, non-profit organization. Our mission is providing prevention, response and recovery for animal emergencies. The team includes a coalition of over thirty-five public and private organizations. It operates under the auspices of the State Emergency Response Team. www.ncsart.org. Tax-deductible donations can be made to SART, P.O. Box 33038, Raleigh, NC 27636.

Schering Plough Animal Health (SPAH) promotes and distributes Home Again microchips and scanners throughout the United States.

The **AKC** founded the Companion Animal Recovery Program in 1995, to provide 24-hour recovery services for enrolled *HomeAgain* chipped animals.