



John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation



For Immediate Release

Contact: info@acc-d.org or Adelia Hwang (971) 506-2253

The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation funds innovative microneedle patch tattoo technology to identify sterilized cats and dogs

Portland, Oregon, (June 30, 2021)—The Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACC&D), in partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), will make significant progress in 2021-22 to advance microneedle patch technology research to deliver permanent and painless tattoos to dogs and cats that have been sterilized. This work is funded by a generous grant from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, a supporting organization of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation.

According to Joyce Briggs, ACC&D President, “We see great promise in current research to develop a non-surgical sterilant for cats. To be implemented successfully, we need to be ready with a method for identifying these animals without the need for anesthesia. With the grant from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, we hope to make significant progress toward this goal, while also exploring how this technology can benefit veterinarians, shelters, and pet owners now when used with spay and neuter surgery.”

According to Georgia Tech Professor Dr. Mark Prausnitz, “This technology has undergone research, including in dogs, and been found to painlessly deliver vaccines. It is well suited for adaptation to deliver a tattoo.” Building on findings from earlier pilot studies, ACC&D and Georgia Tech will optimize microneedle patch technology to create a fast, convenient, and attractive design to identify animals that have been non-surgically sterilized (the mark is placed on the inside of the cat or dog’s ear). Plans also include adapting this method to identify surgically spayed cats and dogs via a mark on the animal’s abdomen.

“We are so pleased to support this work. A universal mark could enable more animals to be efficiently identified as sterilized, resulting in fewer unnecessary procedures and more efficient use of shelter resources,” says Leslie Harris, Chair of the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation.

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The Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACC&D) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to expedite the successful introduction of methods to non-surgically sterilize cats and dogs and to support the distribution and promotion of these products to humanely control cat and dog populations worldwide. To learn more about ACC&D’s mission and work, visit www.acc-d.org.

The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation was established in 1998 through a gift from John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold. The Foundation is committed to bettering the lives of domesticated and undomesticated animals, including supporting the efforts of animal rescue and land conservation organizations and advances in veterinary medicine. In 2012, the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation Trustees elected to become a supporting organization of the Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut. To learn more about the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, visit www.cfnwct.org/wiederhold-foundation.