



## John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation



For Immediate Release

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### **The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation provides additional funding for innovative microneedle patch tattoo technology to identify sterilized cats and dogs**

Portland, Oregon, (February 20, 2023)—The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, a supporting organization of the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation, has approved additional grant funding for the Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs (ACC&D) to continue work in 2023 to further advance microneedle patch research. ACC&D is conducting this research in partnership with the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) to deliver permanent and humane tattoos to dogs and cats that have been sterilized without anesthesia.

According to Joyce Briggs, ACC&D President, “We are so grateful for the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation’s continued trust and support of our work in this area. Having a humane method to identify animals that have been non-surgically sterilized (or contracepted) is vital to the successful implementation of non-surgical fertility control. This technology also has the capacity to increase private veterinarian uptake of tattooing to ensure that animals that enter shelters are not unnecessarily opened up because there is no obvious indication that the animal has already been spayed.”

ACC&D and Georgia Tech’s partnership first began exploring use of 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). With a grant from the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation in 2021, ACC&D was able to expand the scope of this work to adapt the patch to be a convenient method for tattooing 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](http://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](http://www.cfnwct.org/wiederhold-foundation).