

Scottish Government submission of 8 June 2022

PE1938/A - Introduce compulsory microchipping of cats in Scotland

You ask for the Scottish Government views on Petition PE1938 lodged by Carlie Power calling on the Scottish Parliament to introduce the mandatory microchipping of cats in Scotland; and assess the effectiveness of current microchip scanning processes.

The Scottish Government's [Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats](#) recommends that all cat owners should consider neutering and microchipping their pets, as the best way of being reunited should they become lost or separated.

Compulsory microchipping of dogs, while helping to reunite lost animals with their owners, also allows authorities to directly identify dog owners and hold them accountable for their behaviour. Cats however have a much lesser impact on their surrounding environment than dogs, will often go about their locale unnoticed and are unlikely to pose a danger to a member of the public. As such, the Scottish Government does not consider that a similar requirement for cats is strictly necessary.

The Scottish Government are however working alongside the other UK administrations on a number of areas to deliver commitments to improve the welfare of kept animals, and the microchipping of cats will be considered as part of this wider discussion. Officials are following the Defra proposals on the microchipping of cats with interest and will give full consideration to the results of their recent consultation and details of any proposed legislation when available.

I trust that this information is helpful, and if you require any further information please let me know.