

# Scottish Animal Welfare Commission submission of 19 July 2022

## PE1938/D: Introduce compulsory microchipping of cats in Scotland

In its consideration of the Petition to introduce compulsory microchipping of cats in Scotland (**PETITION PE1938: Introduce compulsory microchipping of cats in Scotland**) on 29<sup>th</sup> June the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission for its views on this issue. The letter was received on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The CPPP Committee specifically asked whether SAWC:

- has any specific plans to bring forward consideration of compulsory microchipping in cats; and
- if so, what the timescales for this work might be

SAWC is aware of the UK Government's plans to require microchipping of pet cats in England. It is also aware of the ongoing UK Government review of the wider microchipping rules in England. SAWC understands that the Scottish Government will give full consideration to the findings of the UK Government's review in due course.

SAWC is an independent body that provides advice to Ministers. It takes an egalitarian approach to prioritising its work, based on severity of welfare issues affecting all sentient animals in Scotland. The welfare aspects of microchipping domestic cats in the context of continuing conservation initiatives for the wildcat in Scotland were identified by SAWC and have featured in SAWC's most recent [work plan](#) as an issue to potentially focus on in the medium term. There are many other animal welfare issues that are also very relevant to Scotland which SAWC has been analysing, and as such, it has not yet had an opportunity to investigate and focus on the issue of microchipping in cats.

I hope that these comments are of interest and we will be pleased to provide more detailed views from SAWC if required.