

# Petitioner submission of 15 February 2023

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

In addition to our submission on 11 August 2022, we have a further update/new information to add if we could please. Firstly, we have an update on Glasgow council regarding the scanning of deceased domestic pets which we initially raised as a result of a cat named Sushi. Information on this can be found on our submission PE1938/F. Since this last submission, we have been working with numerous local councillors, mostly Cllr Eva Bollander, who have received a final response from Glasgow on the issue. Sadly, Glasgow council have decided that they will no longer scan cats due to "not having knowledge of any underlying health conditions of the cats, and to protect staff from potential infection during the current climate where the outbreak of avian influenza in Scotland can spread to humans". Of course, we understand the seriousness of the ongoing spread of avian flu. However, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says it is unlikely that pets would become infected, and unlikely that people would become infected with the bird flu viruses through contact with an infected wild, stray, or feral animal. The virus is a global issue, and no other UK council has ceased the procedure of scanning of deceased cats and dogs due to fears of staff contracting bird flu as there is just not the evidence from leading experts that this is something people handling deceased animals need to be concerned about. Even if there was cause for concern, not opting to scan domestic pets does not lead to them not having to handle deceased animals as this is part of their street cleaning duties regardless. Unfortunately, we detect little desire overall to offer a scanning option to local pet owners who might sadly find themselves in the position of losing a beloved pet, which concerns us that any effort to work with them beyond the outbreak would be futile. Unfortunately, action from the Government would be needed in some local authority areas to have an effective scanning system throughout Scotland. As previously stated, this would not increase workload for staff, or place an added financial burden on them due to councils already retrieving and storing these animals anyway, and already possessing the necessary equipment. It is simply a small ask to save the mental torture and heartache of the residents who love and call these animals family.

The second submission we wish to send is that of stakeholder Jillian who runs the organisation Cats Lost and Found West Lothian. Jillian was keen to add her experience working on the front line of scanning

and returning lost/found cats, and we felt it important to highlight how important the issue of microchipping and scanning is as people in the community find it in the real world.