

# **PE2145/A: Bring in Compulsory Microchipping for Cats in Scotland**

## **Scottish Government written submission, 17 April 2025**

Thank you for your email of 14 March 2025 seeking a response from the Scottish Government concerning Petition PE2145 lodged by Jillian Brown.

The Petition seeks the introduction of legislation to make the microchipping of cats compulsory in Scotland, mirroring the requirement in England for owners to have their cats microchipped from 10 June 2024.

The recently published Scottish Animal Welfare Commission's (SAWC) report on the responsible ownership and care of cats in Scotland ([Report on responsible ownership and care of domestic cats \(Felis catus\) in Scotland Scottish Animal Welfare Commission](#)) recommends that the Scottish Ministers introduce legislation to require the compulsory microchipping and registration of owned cats in Scotland. The report, published on 27 January 2025, also recognises that around 70% of cat owners are already voluntarily microchipping and registering their cats, and that some owners believe that their cat/s do not require to be microchipped as they live indoors.

The Scottish Government's [Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats](#) recommends that all responsible cat owners should consider microchipping their pets as the best way of being reunited with their rightful owners, should they be separated or found in the sad and distressing situations the petitioner describes. Owners who have microchipped their pets are also encouraged to make every effort to update their contact information should they move.

We are carefully considering all of the recommendations made by SAWC in its published report and will engage with stakeholders before any decision is made on a future direction.

I hope this reply is helpful to the Committee's consideration of the petition.

**Animal Welfare Policy Team**