

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 10 December 2025
19th Meeting, 2025 (Session 6)

PE2145: Bring in compulsory microchipping for cats in Scotland

Introduction

Petitioner Jillian Brown

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make it compulsory for cats and kittens to be microchipped.

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2145>

1. [The Committee last considered this petition at its meeting on 21 May 2025](#). At that meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Scottish Government.
2. The petition summary is included in **Annexe A** and the Official Report of the Committee's last consideration of this petition is at **Annexe B**.
3. The Committee has received a new written submission from the Scottish Government which is set out in **Annexe C**.
4. [Written submissions received prior to the Committee's last consideration can be found on the petition's webpage](#).
5. [Further background information about this petition can be found in the SPICe briefing](#) for this petition.
6. [The Scottish Government gave its initial response to the petition on 17 April 2025](#).
7. Every petition collects signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 615 signatures have been received on this petition

Action

8. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take.

Clerks to the Committee
December 2025

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2145: Bring in compulsory microchipping for cats in Scotland

Petitioner

Jillian Brown

Date Lodged

10 February 2025

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make it compulsory for cats and kittens to be microchipped.

Background information

This legislation was passed in England in 2023, but sadly, it is still not compulsory in Scotland.

I run a Facebook page Cats Lost and Found West Lothian, Scotland, and the number of missing cats that are not microchipped is truly shocking.

It's heartbreaking to find deceased cats on the road. When a microchip is present and the owner's details are current, we can quickly reunite them with their beloved pets.

Organisations like Bear Scotland pick up deceased cats and work with another group to ensure someone is available to scan them. I've been to their depot myself and scanned a cat, successfully returning it to its owner. This process is vital for bringing closure to owners who may otherwise never know what happened to their furry friend.

Microchipping our cats and kittens in Scotland is crucial. It will significantly increase the chances of reuniting lost, stray, and even road-killed cats with their families, making a real difference in our community. Let's take action and spread the word about the importance of microchipping!

Annexe B: Extract from Official Report of last consideration of PE2145 on 21 May 2025

The Convener: PE2145, lodged by Jillian Brown, calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make it compulsory for cats and kittens to be microchipped. The Scottish Government's "Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats" recommends that all responsible cat owners consider microchipping their pets as the best way of ensuring that they can be reunited with their rightful owners.

The Scottish Animal Welfare Commission has published a report on responsible ownership and care of cats, recommending that Scottish ministers

"introduce legislation to require the compulsory microchipping and registration of owned cats".

The Scottish Government's response to the petition states that it is carefully considering the recommendations in that report and will engage with stakeholders ahead of any decision being made on what future direction the Government might recommend.

The committee has received a written submission from Cats Protection, highlighting the public support for compulsory microchipping in England, which is now in force, and calling for its introduction in Scotland.

Foyso Choudhury (Lothian) (Lab): Before Mr Torrance jumps in, I want to say that I totally agree with everything that the petitioner has said. Microchipping should be compulsory, because a cat is not only a cat—it is part of a family, too. If the proposal means that cats that are lost are brought back home, we should all support it.

We should write to the Scottish Government to ask whether, in light of the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission's report and the new requirement in England, it will introduce legislation to mandate the microchipping and registration of cats in this parliamentary session.

The Convener: Do we have any idea of how many cats there are? I doubt it. My goodness, it could be quite a commitment.

Does anybody else have any observations or reflections?

Foyso Choudhury: Why do we not find out how many there are?

The Convener: I do not even know whom I would ask to find out how many cats there are that would require to be microchipped. Would the measure be retrospective, or applied to each new cat that is to be launched into the domestic environment?

In any event, the Government is considering the issues, and it is perfectly reasonable to try to establish when those considerations might lead to a recommendation. Are colleagues content to support Mr Choudhury's recommendation?

CPPP/S6/25/19/15

Members *indicated agreement.*

Annexe C: Written submissions

Scottish Government written submission, 1 July 2025

PE2145/C: Bring in Compulsory Microchipping for Cats in Scotland

Thank you for your email of 03 June 2025 asking if the Scottish Government intends to introduce legislation during the current parliamentary session to mandate the microchipping and registration of cats in Scotland.

Whilst we recognise the level of feeling associated with this subject, the Scottish Government does not at this time have plans to introduce legislation to make the microchipping and registration of cats compulsory in Scotland. We are considering the recommendations made by the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission (SAWC) in their report concerning the responsible ownership and care of cats, and should any changes to existing legislation or new legislation be considered necessary in the future, we would look to fully assess the impacts it may have and consult with stakeholders before it was laid before Parliament.