

Debate Pack

Number CDP 2021/0096
By Dominic Carver
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E-petition debate: Compulsory scanning of pet microchips

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1

Background

In 2020, two petitions relating to the microchipping of pets both received over 100,000 signatures. Both petitions call for legislation to be introduced that would make it compulsory for vets to scan pets for microchips prior to making certain decisions over their future.

Pet microchips are small electronic chips, similar in size to a grain of rice. They are implanted under the skin between the shoulder blades. According to [information from Dogs Trust](#), the procedure causes no more discomfort than a standard vaccination and does not require anaesthetic. Pet microchips contain a unique number that can be read by a scanner and the pet owner's details are stored on a central database. This means that stolen or missing pets can be more easily reunited with their owners. However, for this to be effective, pet owners must ensure the details stored on the database are updated if their circumstances change.

E-petition [300010](#), closed on 4 September 2020 having received 112,228 signatures. It calls for the introduction of 'Fern's Law' which would make it compulsory to scan and check all microchips to reunite stolen dogs and cats.

The full text of the petition is as follows:

[Fern's Law: Compulsory to scan & check microchips to reunite stolen dogs, cats.](#)

Many missing microchipped pets are never reunited as it's optional to scan & check microchip registration. It's time veterinary professionals, authorities and rescues checked pet & keeper match on the original database at a pet's 1st consultation or yearly checkup. It's their only chance to get home

Vets can play a valuable role in reuniting missing microchipped pets. We have microchipped our pets with the expectation to be reunited if the worst happens and they are lost or stolen. If just one organisation is not committed to scan and check microchip registration the whole system fails and is not fit for purpose. Legislation is needed to replace half hearted 'strengthened, best practice recommendations'
VetsGetScanning.co.uk

E-petition [300025](#), which also closed on 4 September 2020, received 121,166 signatures. The petition states that a dog was euthanised at the request of a person who was not the registered keeper and calls for the introduction of 'Tuks Law'.

The full text of the petition is as follows:

[Vets to scan prior to euthanasia for Rescue Back up and confirm keeper details](#)

A healthy young dog with RBU [Rescue Back Up] was euthanised. The person who requested euthanasia was not the registered keeper.

Vets must be legally required to scan for rescue back up contact details on microchips and confirm the person presenting the animal is registered on the microchip. Rescue Back Up must be contacted and honoured

Tuks Law request vets:

- Scan microchips prior to euthanising a healthy/treatable animal.
- Confirm keeper details on original database of unknown animals presented for euthanasia.
- Seek alternative options in non life threatening/non emergency situations.
- If an unsubstantiated reason for euthanasia is made corroborating evidence is required.
- On government endorsed databases a prefix is to be added to microchips to identify dual registration of rescue animals.

#TuksLaw

1.1

Government Response

Government responses to the petitions were given on 2 April 2020 ([e-petition 300010](#)) and on 7 May 2020 ([e-petition 300025](#)). In both instances the Government highlighted existing guidance from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and the British Veterinary Association (BVA).

Part of the response to e-petition 300010, ‘Fern’s Law’, is set out below:

BVA and RCVS provide necessary guidance to scan dogs. We will consider reform options including whether this should be mandatory as part of [the] Post Implementation Review of the microchipping regulations.

It is a legal requirement for all owners to microchip their dogs, and to enter the details onto a database. British Veterinary Association (BVA) best practice is that vets should scan dogs on first presentation at their practice, and at other regular intervals including prior to euthanasia, where euthanasia is deemed the appropriate course of action by the veterinary expert. BVA’s website sets out their position on scanning: <https://www.bva.co.uk/News-campaigns-and-policy/Policy/Companion-animals/Microchipping/>

The guidance includes advice on what a vet should do if the details of the person presenting the dog are different to what is recorded on the database, and what to do when stray or lost animals are brought to the practice by checking the microchipping databases in order to reunite the animal with their owner.

The Government considers that advice from BVA and RCVS (Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons) provides veterinary professionals with helpful guidance on conducting appropriate scanning and to protect the welfare of dogs. Ministers will continue to emphasise the importance of vets scanning pet animals when they are first presented to their surgery.

The full Government Response is available to read on the [petition page](#).

Responding to e-petition 300025, ‘Tuks Law’, the Government stated that:

The Government understands the distress that the death of a pet can cause and is considering scanning requirements, as part of the Post Implementation Review of the microchipping regulations.

We agree that no dog should be put down unless there are extenuating reasons for having to do so.

Paragraphs 8.9 and 8.10 of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Code of Conduct provides advice to vets on euthanizing animals when the owner is not present. A link to the RCVS’ Code of Conduct can be found here:

<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/setting-standards/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-surgeons/supporting-guidance/euthanasia-of-animals/>

The full Government Response is available to read on the [petition page](#).

1.2 Microchipping Legislation and Guidance

The [Microchipping of Dogs \(England\) Regulations 2015](#) were introduced on 2 February 2015 and aim to reduce the number of dogs needing to be kennelled or rehomed. The explanatory notes accompany the Bill state that:

...from April 2016, all keepers of dogs in England must have their dog microchipped with their and their dog’s details recorded on a reunification database. The Regulations set standards for the microchips and databases that will need to be used in order to be compliant with the Regulations. The requirement will reduce the number of dogs that need

to be kennelled, re-homed or put down because their keepers cannot be traced.¹

A press release published on the day that the compulsory microchipping came into force set out how the regulations would benefit dog owners and the possible penalties for failing to comply.

Under the new measures all owners must ensure their dog is microchipped and their details are kept up to date. Not only will this mean the UK's 8.5 million dogs can be returned to their owners more quickly if they wander too far from home, but it will also make it easier to track down the owners of dogs that carry out attacks on people.

From today (6 April 2016) owners of dogs found by the police or local authorities not to have a microchip will have the benefits explained to them and be given a short period to comply with the microchipping law. If they do not, they could face a fine of up to £500.²

[Government guidance](#) states that a microchip must be fitted by a professional and by the time a dog is 8 weeks old. The guidance also sets out how dog owners can get their pet microchipped and what happens after the procedure has taken place:

Your dog's microchip is given a number, which will show up whenever your dog is scanned.

The professional who microchips your dog will also take your contact details.

These details are kept alongside the microchip number on a database, so that your dog can be returned to you if it's lost or stolen.³

Once a dog microchip has been fitted the dog must be registered on one of 16 databases⁴ which all meet Government standards. A dog must also wear a collar with the owners address and contact details when in a public place.

According to the Kennel Club, the [Microchipping of Dogs \(England\) Regulations 2015](#) do not place a legal requirement on "veterinarians, local authorities or highways agencies to scan dogs or cats in any circumstance."⁵ There is also currently no equivalent legislation for the compulsory microchipping of cats.

¹ Defra, [Explanatory Memorandum to the Microchipping Of Dogs \(England\) Regulations 2015](#),

² Defra, [Compulsory dog microchipping comes into effect](#), 6 April 2016

³ Defra, [Get your dog microchipped](#)

⁴ Defra, [Get your dog microchipped](#)

⁵ The Kennel Club, [Microchipping and compulsory scanning](#).

The BVA recommends that veterinary practices should scan for a microchip under the following circumstances:

- prior to microchip implantation – to make sure there's no other microchip present
- on presentation of a lost, stray, or apparently unowned animal – to help reunification when checked against the national databases, providing the owner has kept their details up to date
- on first presentation at the practice – to make sure the animal is correctly identified when checked against the national databases
- before travelling abroad – to make sure the microchip is still working and hasn't migrated significantly
- before rabies vaccination or official certification
- annually as routine (eg at the time of the annual check-up and/or booster vaccination) – to make sure the microchip is still working and has not migrated significantly
- on admission for treatment or hospitalisation, where appropriate – as part of good clinical practice to make sure the patient is matched to clinical records
- prior to euthanasia, if considered appropriate – as part of good clinical practice to make sure that the patient is matched to clinical records.⁶

1.3

Government Consultation and Review

In May 2021, the Government launched its [Action Plan for Animal Welfare](#). This policy paper sets out the Government's plans for animal welfare reforms through legislative and non-legislative measures. On pets, the plan states that:

...we are reviewing the operation of the current microchip database systems, which also apply to dogs, with a view to introducing improvements. We are also considering reforms to provide greater assurance that microchip database information is checked appropriately, for example in cases where healthy dogs are presented to vets for euthanasia, as campaigned for via the 'Tuk's Law' movement.⁷

⁶ The Kennel Club, [Microchipping and compulsory scanning](#).

⁷ Defra, [Action Plan for Animal Welfare](#), 12 May 2021

A [Call for Evidence on compulsory cat microchipping](#) in England ran for 12 weeks from 12 October 2019 to 4 January 2020. Based on the responses from this, the Government stated that it would run a full public consultation that would run in parallel to a Post Implementation Review (PIR) of the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015.

The Government consultation on [cat and dog microchipping and scanning in England](#) ran from December 2020 until February 2021. In addition to seeking views on the compulsory microchipping of cats, the consultation sought views “on whether the scanning of cats and dogs by vets and other bodies should be made compulsory in certain circumstances, or whether existing guidance and best practice set out by the veterinary profession and other bodies is sufficient.”⁸ The consultation document highlighted that respondents to the call for evidence and campaign groups have called for local authorities to be better equipped for scanning and that scanning should be compulsory in certain circumstances:

Respondents to the Call for Evidence suggested that local authorities need to be better equipped and prepared to scan for microchips when dealing with stray or deceased cats. This was supported by additional calls for routine scanning of dogs and cats found by dog wardens, highways departments and vets. The absence of a legal requirement for vets to scan cats that come into their surgery as strays or at their first appointment, was cited as a potentially having an impact on the success of compulsory cat microchipping.

In addition to information shared in the Call for Evidence, several campaign groups have called on the Government to make the scanning of dogs and cats for microchips compulsory in certain circumstances in order to check ownership/keepership against database records. This includes proposals for the compulsory scanning of dogs before euthanasia by vets to confirm the person presenting the animal is the registered keeper on the microchip database and to check additional contact details for rescue or rehoming organisation that may maintain a legal interest in the animal;

- i. “Tuk’s Law” campaign is calling for vets to be required to scan microchips for rescue back up contact details prior to euthanising healthy animals and check keeper and owner details on the relevant database. The rationale behind this is to check that the “rightful” owner has given permission for euthanasia to take place;
- ii. “Fern’s Law” campaign seeks a requirement for vets to scan cats and dogs that are brought into the practice for the first time or at yearly check-ups to check that the animal is not recorded as stolen or missing;

⁸ Defra, [Consultation on Cat and Dog Microchipping and Scanning in England](#), December 2020

- iii. “Gizmo’s Legacy” campaign relates primarily to a requirement for local authorities (council workers/contractors/street cleaners) to scan dead cats and* check microchip details where the animal is found by the roadside. The rationale is that this would provide owners with peace of mind to know what had happened to their pet, and prevent carcasses being disposed of to landfill or by cremation without their knowledge or consent.⁹

On 1 June 2021, the Government gave the following update on the publication of the consultation, in response to a [parliamentary question](#) on the topic:

The Consultation on Cat and Dog Microchipping and Scanning in England received over 33,000 responses. We are currently analysing these and will publish our findings later this year alongside our proposed actions.¹⁰

A [separate e-petition](#) which closed in April 2021 and received 25,160 signatures, called for a single database of microchipped cats and dogs & compulsory scanning. The government issued the following response to the petition, which outlined ongoing research by the University of Nottingham:

The Government is aware that some people and organisations would like to see changes to the dog and cat microchipping legislation, including a single pet microchip database and a requirement for veterinarians to check the keeper records linked to microchips when pets are first brought into their practices. The Government is responding by reviewing existing microchipping regulations and by consulting interested parties to hear their views on these two suggestions.

As part of the post-legislative requirements, the Government is reviewing The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 (the 2015 Regulations). This review is currently being undertaken by researchers from the University of Nottingham who are due to report their findings very shortly.

The study includes the use of multiple databases and whether there should be a single database.

Once the researchers have submitted their findings and we have had time to study it in full, the Government will wish to consult widely to gain people’s views and opinions on potential changes. There are currently fourteen¹¹ separate databases which we regard as compliant with the 2015 Regulations. These are connected to facilitate the swift matching of microchip details with keeper contact information. If anyone wishes to find out which database a specific microchip is registered on they need only enter the individual microchip number on a single compliant

⁹ Defra, [Consultation on Cat and Dog Microchipping and Scanning in England](#), December 2020

¹⁰ [PQ 5263](#), 1 June 2021

¹¹ The Government page [Get your dog microchipped](#) currently lists 16 databses

databases' look-up facilities. These look-up facilities are readily found on their websites. The search result will indicate which database the microchip is registered on, showing the enquirer where to find the relevant contact details regardless of which initial look-up facility is being used.¹²

Another e-petition which requests that [All Rescue Back Up Contact Details On Microchips Must Remain Registered For Life](#) runs until 18 July 2021 and has received over 15,000 signatures. Rescue Back Up is a scheme used by some dog rehoming charities that means they would take responsibility for an animal if the owners cannot be found or are unable to care for them. Responding to the e-petition the Government has stated that it will consider the points it raises as part of its ongoing review into pet microchipping and the current database system:

The Government recently held a public consultation on cat and dog microchipping and scanning in England. This included questions on whether to introduce measures for compulsory scanning of dogs prior to euthanasia. We are analysing the responses to the consultation and will issue our response later this year.

We are also in the process of conducting the post-implementation review of the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015. This will include a review of how the current database system is working in practice.

We will consider the points raised by this e-petition as part of this review, which we anticipate will report later this year.¹³

1.4 Pets (Microchips) Bill

On 23 September 2020, James Daly MP (Con), introduced the [Pets \(Microchips\) Bill](#) under the Ten Minute Rule. The Bill would “make provision regarding pets with microchips; and for connected purposes” and would extend to England and Wales only.¹⁴ Reading the Bill for the first time, James Daly stated that:

This Bill should more commonly be known as Tuk’s law and Gizmo’s law. Every responsible pet owner wants to ensure that their pet is safe. It is now a legal requirement for all dog owners to microchip their dogs since compulsory microchipping came into force in 2016. British Veterinary Association best practice guidelines recommend that vets should scan microchips on the first presentation in veterinary surgeries and at other regular intervals, including prior to any decision being made on

¹² [Government response to e-petition 551556](#), 13 January 2021

¹³ [Government response to e-petition 565612](#), 1 April 2021

¹⁴ [Pets \(Microchips\) Bill](#), 28 January 2021

euthanasia. These guidance notes also include advice on what a vet should do if details of the person presenting the dog are different from what is in the database, and on what to do when stray or lost dogs are brought into the veterinary surgery, including the need to check the microchip databases in order to reunite the animal with its owner or back-up rescuers. Although the guidance is helpful, the Tuk's law campaign has found that many vets are not following these recommendations and a large number of healthy dogs are being euthanised without checking microchips to ascertain the owners or back-up rescuers.¹⁵

The [full text of the Bill](#) as introduced was published on 28 January 2021 and sets out the requirement for vets to scan for microchips before euthanising pets and the requirements of local authorities relating to cats with microchips. However, the Bill did not receive a Second Reading and thus did not complete its passage through Parliament before the end of the 2019-21 Parliamentary session.

1.5

Reaction to the e-petitions and microchipping reforms

Responding to the Government's consultation on Cat and Dog Microchipping and Scanning in England, the BVA published a document in which it outlined its strong opposition to the proposed reforms:

We strongly oppose proposals to introduce blanket or indiscriminate compulsory scanning, on animal welfare and public safety grounds. We recognise there has been some criticism of the profession from campaigners calling for compulsory scanning. Unfortunately, such campaigns misunderstand the powers of vets and the potential welfare harms of compulsory scanning to both animals and humans (eg those fleeing with their pets from domestic abuse).

...vets play a key role in helping to reunite lost, and sometimes stolen, animals with their owner. However, if the veterinary profession were required to play a role in enforcing owners' compliance with microchipping legislation this may cause negative unintended consequences for animal welfare by compromising the vet-owner relationship. This crucial relationship is based on trust and confidentiality and if compromised could act as a disincentive to accessing veterinary advice and care, ultimately impeding the profession's primary responsibility to protect animal health and welfare.

¹⁵ [Pets \(Microchips\) Volume 68Q](#): debated on Wednesday 23 September 2020

It is also important to recognise that the circumstances surrounding the individual cases which present themselves in veterinary practices are sometimes not clear cut and there will be a need for the vet to exercise their professional judgement, based on the information available to them. Vets must also operate within their powers, so cannot seize or hold a dog or cat suspected as stolen, nor can they share confidential ownership information as this would breach data protection laws and, in some circumstances, could put the animal, its owner, or its finder, at risk. Where there is an ownership dispute or an animal is suspected stolen vets are advised to follow the RCVS '[Client confidentiality and microchipped animals flowchart](#)'.¹⁶

The response also listed the other circumstances in which veterinary practices should scan pet microchips.

The Kennel Club has stated that it “will not support petitions calling for the creation of a single database of microchipped cats and dogs, as well as mandatory scanning at every presentation.” In addition to reasons highlighted by the BVA it states that:

... scanning and checking the relevant database can be time consuming, and may be unlikely to be completed in a meaningful way if required during every visit to the veterinary surgery. This could have a number of unintended consequences for animals and their owners, such as a reduced number of available appointments and increased costs for owners to burden. We would like to see greater adoption of technological advances, such as the Halo Scanner¹⁷, which can scan a microchip and automatically flag a lost or stolen animal within eight seconds. This would make the process both quicker and easier for veterinarians.¹⁸

An [article published in The Conversation](#) in January 2020 argued that, if introduced, the benefits of compulsory microchips in cats, would only be felt if the flaws in the current system were corrected.

Compulsory microchipping certainly has the potential to improve the identification and reunification of missing and stolen pets, but this potential can only be met if the current system is fixed. Optional scanning and competing commercial databases are currently letting down microchipped pets and their responsible owners. With this in mind, compulsory cat chipping presents an excellent opportunity for the government to work towards compulsory scanning by animal

¹⁶ BVA, [Joint BVA, BVNA, BSAVA and SPVS response to the Defra consultation on Cat and Dog Microchipping and Scanning in England](#), 17 February 2021

¹⁷ Halo Scanner is a brand of scanner that reads pet microchips and alerts users if the animal is lost or stolen.

¹⁸ The Kennel Club, [Microchipping and compulsory scanning](#).

professionals and councils, and a single accessible register for cats and dogs.¹⁹

¹⁹ The Conversation, [Compulsory cat microchipping is great in theory – but the system is flawed](#), 29 January 2020

2

Parliamentary Material

2.1

Parliamentary Questions

Pets: Registration

20 May 2021 | UIN 2465

Asked by: Zarah Sultana

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what plans his Department has to (a) ensure that the running of pet registration databases is fully accountable to pet owners and (b) create a Government-run pet registration database.

Answering member: Victoria Prentis

Department: Defra

Under the Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015, it is compulsory for owners to microchip their dogs and their details must be recorded on a compliant database. The Regulations set out conditions which microchip databases must meet to be compliant. There are 16 compliant microchip databases, which are listed on gov.uk.

We are currently carrying out a post-implementation review of the Regulations, which will be published later this year. It will consider how the current database system is working in practice and will identify whether improvements are required.

Pets: Tagging

31 March 2021 | UIN 174325

Asked by: James Daly

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what steps he is taking with Cabinet colleagues to support the incorporation of Tuks Law and Gizmo's Law into statute.

Answering member: Victoria Prentis

Department: Defra

This Government launched a public consultation on cat and dog microchipping and scanning in England which ended on 17 February 2021. The consultation asked for views on compulsory scanning of animal's microchips prior to euthanasia (Tuk's Law) and dead cats found by the roadside (Gizmo's Legacy). The responses are currently being analysed and the Government will issue its response later this year.

Tagging: Cats and Dogs

01 March 2021 | UIN 155493

Asked by: Alexander Stafford

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment he has made of the potential merits of creating a single database of microchipped cats and dogs to help tackle increases in pet thefts.

Answering member: Victoria Prentis

Department: Defra

We are always keen to consider improvements to the system and a post-implementation review of the law that regulates compulsory microchipping of dogs – The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 - will be carried out this year. This will include a review of how the current database system is working in practice.

The Government takes the issue of pet theft very seriously and is concerned by suggestions that occurrences are on the rise. The department is in contact with the police about crime prevention advice and the enforcement of the law around pet theft.

Cats: Tagging

24 February 2021 | UIN HL13266

Asked by: Baroness Hayman of Ullock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to ensure that local councils scan cats collected as a result of road traffic accidents for microchips.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park

Department: Defra

It is established good practice for local authorities to scan any cat or dog found on the streets so that the owner can be informed. Cats Protection report that 80% of councils in England routinely scan cats involved in accidents.

Additionally, Highways England has clear guidelines for contractors to follow when they find a deceased cat or dog. This process is designed with owners in mind, giving them the best chance of being informed of the incident to allow closure. The process is laid out in the Network Management Manual and in 2015 the necessary arrangements were made in all Highways England's contracts to collect and identify cats and dogs killed on the strategic road network and to contact their owners.

Cats: Tagging

24 February 2021 | UIN HL13264

Asked by: Baroness Hayman of Ullock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to inform cat owners of (1) the need to be aware of (a) non-compliant, and (b) non-DEFRA-approved, microchip databases, and (2) the implications of registering their details on such a database.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park

Department: Defra

Under the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015, the Defra Secretary of State has powers to ensure database operators meet the requirements under the regulations. The Secretary of State may also authorise in writing "an authorised person", such as a local authority or police constable, to act for the purpose of enforcing these regulations. Defra can therefore work with authorised persons and enforcement agencies, such as Trading Standards, to deal with non-compliant databases.

The Government is committed to improving the welfare of cats and is committed to introducing the compulsory microchipping of cats. Cat owners can ensure that they register with a compliant database by using any of the microchipping databases listed on GOV.UK.

Defra is also conducting a Post Implementation Review of The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 which will consider the operation of the microchip databases.

Cats: Tagging

24 February 2021 | UIN HL13265

Asked by: Baroness Hayman of Ullock

To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking to encourage cat owners (1) to microchip their cats, and (2) to keep registered microchip contact details up to date.

Answering member: Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park

Department: Defra

The Government is committed to improving the welfare of cats and has a manifesto commitment to introduce compulsory microchipping of cats. Defra launched a consultation in December 2020 on the compulsory microchipping and scanning of cats, and scanning of dogs in England which ended on 17 February. We are currently analysing the responses to the consultation and we will issue our response to it later this year.

The Government advises owners to follow the statutory welfare code for cats which advises that microchipping a cat gives them the best chance of being identified, and reunited with their owner if injured or lost. The code of practice for the welfare of cats can be found in the attached document.

Cat owners can ensure that they register with a compliant database by using any of the microchipping databases listed on GOV.UK.

Dogs: Tagging

26 February 2020 | UIN 1864

Asked by: John Spellar

To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the prevalence pet microchip databases on dog owners.

Answering member: Victoria Prentis

Department: Defra

Under The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 all microchip databases are required to meet strict requirements, including having their records linked to each other to enable anyone searching for a microchip entry to know to which database it is registered. Any database found not to be complying with the 2015 Regulation faces a fine of up to £2,500 and having their ability to operate as a microchip database removed. There are currently thirteen compliant databases.

The 2015 Regulations are currently subject to a Post Implementation Review. As part of the review we will look at what effect the prevalence of microchip databases is having on dog owners.

2.2

Previous e-petition and debate

In 2019, the petition [New law that cats killed injured by a vehicle are checked for a chip: Round 3](#) received 107,062 signatures when it closed on 1 April 2019.

Thousands of cats are just disposed of every year without being scanned for a chip after being involved in RTAs. Owners search for months and years and never get closure. Scanning takes two minutes. Cats are a part of a family and deserve to be returned home, not thrown into landfill.

Why do councils not have the same respect for cats as they do for dogs? They are someone's family pet. The law must be changed so all cats are scanned and returned to their owners. A scanner is not expensive and all councils need providing with one and need to use it.

Many councils who say they scan, often don't. There is NO excuse. It takes two minutes. How dare they throw our beloved pets away.

EVERYONE needs to sign the petition to get this law passed for the cats.

A [Commons Library debate pack](#) was published on 13 June 2019 ahead of the Westminster Hall debate on Monday 17 June 2019. The full transcript of the debate can be viewed [here](#).

3

Press Articles

[Compulsory cat microchipping is great in theory – but the system is flawed](#)

The Conversation
Daniel Allen
29 January 2020

[Plan for compulsory microchipping of cats in England amid boom in pet ownership](#)

The Guardian
23 December 2020

[Councils could be forced to scan cats killed on roads for microchips before throwing away bodies](#)

The Independent
22 October 2020

[Microchipping your pet - what's the latest?](#)

The Evening Standard
12 May 2021

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