

# Cats Protection submission of 3 March 2023

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

Further to Cats Protection's submission to the Committee on 27 June 2022, the charity would like to update the information provided in our submission with the latest information from Cats Protection's Cats and Their Stats (CATS) Scotland report on microchipping and include information from a freedom of information request the charity conducted at the end of 2022.

### **Compulsory microchipping of owned cats:**

Cats Protection is calling for compulsory microchipping of owned cats. According to figures from Cats Protection's Cats and Their Stats (CATS) Scotland 2022 report, there are 900,000 owned cats in Scotland, **243,000 of these cats are without a microchip** – this represents 29% of owned cats. This is down on the previous year's figures (27% were not microchipped in 2021- 182,000 cats).

67% of Scottish cats are microchipped, this is also lower than the overall UK figure for microchipped cats (71%), maybe due to the higher proportion of indoor cats in Scotland compared to across the UK (50% Scotland v 37% UK).

### **Cats Protection's freedom of information request to Scottish Local Councils regarding scanning of cats killed on their local road network:**

The charity supports a legal obligation to require local councils across the UK to scan dead cats they find on the road and inform the owner.

In March 2017 and September 2022, Cats Protection sent freedom of information requests to all Scottish Councils to find out who scanned cat victims of road traffic accidents (RTA) for microchips and contacted the owners. The updated results are as follows:

- A total of **65% of councils said they scan cat RTA victims in 2022**. Of the councils who said they scanned cat RTA victims in our 2017 FOI, 42% continue to scan. Of the councils who said they

did not scan cat RTA victims in our 2017 FOI, 23% said they now scan.

- Of those councils that scan cat RTA victims , **80% tried to identify and contact the cat owner** (87% in 2017)
- 55% of councils keep a log with descriptive details of the cat carcass and where it was found (41% in 2017)
- 13% of councils dispose of the cat carcass immediately(19% in 2017)
- 48% of councils keep the carcass in a freezer for a set period of time (28% in 2017)
- In 2017 and 2022 the most common reason given for not scanning cat RTA victims was that the council did not have a scanner.
- 53% of councils recorded the number of cats killed on the roads. (69% in 2017)