

**Public Petitions Clerks  
Room T3 40  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP**

31 December 2015

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1588 (Scan All Pets Found On Scottish Roads).**

The Scottish SPCA would like to thank the Public Petitions Committee for seeking the views of the Society in relation to the requirement to scan all pet animals found on Scottish roads.

The Scottish SPCA can understand the aims of the Petitioner Daisy Harris, in that many people every year contact the Society regarding a missing pet.

In 2014, The Scottish SPCA National Animal Helpline received just fewer than 250,000 calls from members of the public, many of these related to missing domestic cats, with a lesser number relating to dogs. The details of the animal will be logged and if the animal comes to the Societies attention, the owner will be contacted.

The SPICe briefing on this matter, fully explains the responsibilities of Transport Scotland and Local Authorities in relation dead animals found on Scottish Roads.

The Scottish SPCA is aware of several Local Authorities who as best practice, will attempt to scan dead pet animals, although they are not required by law to do so.

If the driver of a vehicle strikes a dog, there is a legal requirement on the driver to inform the Police, the same does not apply to cats.

If a call is received by the Society that relates to an animal that is already known to be dead, the caller is referred to Transport Scotland or the Local Authority, or if the caller is unable to do so, the Society will pass the information on their behalf.

If the call relates to an injured animal on a road, a Scottish SPCA Inspector or Ambulance Driver will attend at the locus; this often involves the assistance of Police Scotland for road safety reasons.

Sadly, many of the animals involved are so seriously injured that they require to be humanely put to sleep, however, wherever an animal can be saved, it will be taken to



a veterinary surgeon or to one of our Animal Rescue and Rehoming Centres to be cared for until the owner can be traced or comes forward.

All such animals are scanned for a microchip, and reunited with the owner, where possible. If for humane reasons, the animal requires to be put to sleep, the owner would be informed if they can be traced.

The Scottish SPCA cares for stray dogs for several Local Authorities in the West of Scotland, a percentage of the stray dogs that are brought in by the Police or Local Authority staff are micro chipped and can be quickly reunited with their owners.

The same applies to many of the cats that our Inspectors and Ambulance Drivers are called out to by members of the public who are concerned for their welfare.

Legislation is being introduced in Scotland in January 2016 that will require all dogs to be micro chipped, the legislation does not extend to cats.

The Scottish SPCA has pointed out to the Scottish Government that there is a small percentage of microchips that fail to respond to being scanned.

Currently the other main problem with microchips is that a surprisingly large number of owners do not keep their contact details up to date with the database companies.

This can be when the registered owner has passed the animal on to another person, or simply moved address and not notified the database company.

In answer to the questions set by the Committee.

The Scottish SPCA deals with many distraught pet owners who have lost and are searching for their pet dog or cat, so can understand the petitioners request, that even the sad news of the death of their pet would allow closure.

The Scottish SPCA does routinely scan stray pets that come into our care and where the owner has kept their details up to date; the animal will be reunited with them,

The Scottish SPCA would be happy to answer any further questions from the Public Petitions Committee in relation to this matter,

Yours sincerely

Michael Flynn  
Chief Superintendent