

By Email:

Ned Sharratt
Assistant Clerk
Public Petitions Committee

petitions@scottish.parliament.uk

15th January 2016

Dear Mr Sharratt,

R.e.: Consideration of Petition PE01588 (Scan All Pets Found On Scottish Roads)

Thank you for your email of 16th December 2015 inviting Dogs Trust to make a written submission regarding Daisy Harris' petition calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make microchip scanning of all domestic animals found dead or alive on all Scottish roads compulsory.

Please find below our response to your specific questions.

What is your view on the petition?

Dogs Trust supports Ms Harris' petition. From April it will be compulsory for all dogs in Scotland to be microchipped. With this upcoming change in mind, Dogs Trust would warmly welcome the introduction of mandatory microchip scanning for all dogs found deceased on a railway or highway. We believe it is imperative that the owners of injured or deceased dogs are informed as soon as possible, either to be able to seek treatment for injuries quickly or for their peace of mind. Dogs Trust continues to ask that dog owners remain vigilant and keep dogs on a lead when walking near busy roads or train-lines with their pet.

Does your organisation routinely scan stray pets that come into its care and does this result in reuniting lost pets with their owners?

Microchipping is a highly effective reunification method, this is why Dogs Trust led the campaign calling on the government to introduce compulsory microchipping for all dogs across the country and the requirement for owners' details to remain up to

date on a national database. We formed the Microchipping Alliance which brought together over 15 organisations, including leading animal welfare organisations, assistance dog charities and veterinary bodies, to lobby collectively on the issue.

It is Dogs Trust policy to scan every dog that comes into either of our two rehoming centres in Scotland and any one of our 20 rehoming centres across the UK. Over the years we have reunited many dogs and their owners via their microchip and we look forward to continuing to do so now that more dogs will have these invaluable identifiers.

I hope this gives you an overview of Dogs Trust's position on this issue. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Paula Boyden

Veterinary Director
Dogs Trust