

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

13<sup>th</sup> October 2020

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: MICROCHIPPING OF PETS.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of pet microchipping; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

To their owners, pets are cherished members of the family and I understand that their disappearance and deaths can cause a lot of distress.

I am pleased that microchipping for dogs became compulsory for animals over eight weeks of age across England, Scotland and Wales in 2016. One year after the Government introduced this policy, the Dogs Trust reported a reduction of 18 percent in the total stray dogs population. In 2016, UK local authorities collected 81,000 strays, while in 2018 this fell to 56,000.

I am pleased that the Government is committed to improving the welfare of cats and has a manifesto commitment to introduce compulsory microchipping of them. Last year, DEFRA published a call for evidence on compulsory microchipping for cats, which attracted over 3,000 responses. I am aware that the responses are now being assessed, with a view to publishing the summary of these in due course - and in light of your correspondence, I have pressed for this to happen as soon as practicable. In the meantime, I would encourage all cat owners to make the sensible choice to microchip their felines, ensuring relevant records are kept up-to-date.

I agree with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) that it is good practice for vets to scan dogs presented to them in order to check the details of their owner. With approximately 90 percent of dogs estimated to be microchipped, it is second nature for many vets to perform a scan, particularly for a first time visit. Indeed, this is widely practised throughout the UK. In its response to a recent petition on this issue, the Government noted this guidance, but also said that it is considering proposals for the compulsory scanning of dogs before euthanasia by vets.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

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