



Petitions Committee

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Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

3 September 2020

Dear Secretary of State

Earlier this year your department responded to two petitions calling for new requirements for vets to check animal microchips in certain circumstances. e-petition 300025 calls on the Government to require vets to scan for contact details on microchips prior to euthanasia, and e-petition 300010 calls on the Government to require microchips to be scanned to reunite stolen cats and dogs. Similar requests have been made in various petitions across several parliaments. Each of the above petitions has now received over 100,000 signatures, so we will consider scheduling them for debate once sittings in Westminster Hall resume, hopefully next month.

The Government's responses to both petitions point to best practice guidance for vets produced by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and British Veterinary Association, but say that the Government is considering proposals such as those requested by these petitions as part of a Post Implementation Review of The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015. The response to e-petition 300010 also refers to the Government's recent consultation on cat microchipping, and says that the Government will publish a summary of the responses together with a way forward in due course.

To inform consideration of when to schedule these petitions for debate, and enable us to update petitioners, I am writing to request an update on when the Government will be publishing the outcome of the Post Implementation Review of The Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015, and also when you will be publishing plans for cat microchipping, following your consultation.

I'd be grateful if you could provide an update on the above points by Wednesday 16 September.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine". The lettering is cursive and fluid, with a large initial 'C'.

Catherine McKinnell MP
Chair of the Petitions Committee