



Response to the Defra consultation on cat and dog microchipping in England

Who we are

1. BVA is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom and has



15. We would also like to highlight that the current proposals do not make any provisions for animals moving between the different regions of the UK - whether by straying, sale, or their owners moving house or holidaying. Defra should look at the potential issues that could arise to ensure future proofing

24. The accuracy of the information held on the database is of great importance to facilitate the reunion of lost and stolen animals with their owners. We therefore support the proposal to require

for databases is currently in place to introduce a legal requirement for pet owners to keep their records updated.

31. The BVA would support a requirement for databases to highlight the benefits of keeping your details updated on their websites. Posters for display in veterinary practices and other relevant locations like pet shops, could also be produced to highlight the benefits.

Strengthening processes around the transfer of keepership records

35. In addition, the requirement to register a dog or cat on only one database ensures clarity for all users in that if an animal is registered on one, there should be no expectation that it will appear on another thereby ensuring efficient use of time and resources for those undertaking database searches.

Answer:

- **Agree**

40. The inclusion of licensed breeder details, as per the proposal in the consultation document, in the permanent record could potentially allow for the collection of data for animal welfare purposes as long as provisions are made for such data to be extracted in compliance with data protection guidelines. This should be taken into account when setting up the single access to the database.
41. However, this provision does not address those breeders who are not licensed and may only be required to be registered. In effect, breeders who produce less than three litters per year can still perpetuate poor breeding practices and in some way should be captured by the proposed provisions. Defra should consider whether registration of all breeders (in addition to current licensing) could give every breeder a unique identifier which could be included in the database and may avoid various GDPR issues
42. A similar provision should be made for cats given some breeds are subject to the same poor breeding practices and compromised welfare outcomes as dogs. Whilst not on the same scale as

66. No comment.