

Pets (Microchips) Bill

[AS INTRODUCED]

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[AS INTRODUCED]

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TO

Make provision regarding pets with microchips; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 Requirement for vets to scan for microchips before euthanising pets

- (1) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, make provision requiring veterinary surgeons in England to take the steps in subsection (2) before euthanising a healthy or treatable pet.
- (2) Those steps are— 5
 - (a) to scan the pet for a microchip on first presentation and before any final decision is made on its euthanasia;
 - (b) to contact the registered owner and any back-up rescuer of the pet in accordance with information held on the database associated with any such microchip. 10
- (3) Regulations under this section may make provision—
 - (a) requiring veterinary surgeons in England to take further steps prior to euthanising a pet fitted with a microchip;
 - (b) requiring Government-endorsed pet microchip databases regarding pets in England to indicate when a pet has both a registered owner and a back-up rescuer; 15
 - (c) for safeguards limiting requests to change information about a pet held on such databases to the registered owner of that pet;
 - (d) about other information to be held on such databases.

2 Requirements of local authorities relating to cats with microchips 20

- (1) A relevant local authority in England must make all reasonable efforts to take the steps listed in subsection (2) with regard to a deceased cat—
 - (a) found on a public highway, or
 - (b) otherwise reported to the local authority.
- (2) Those steps are— 25
 - (a) to make arrangements for the cat to be scanned for a microchip;

- (b) to search the database associated with any such microchip to find ownership details;
 - (c) to contact the owner of the cat to inform them what has happened;
 - (d) to make arrangements for the body of the cat to be—
 - (i) preserved and held for up to seven days, and 5
 - (ii) collected by the owner.
 - (e) to record information about the cat, including—
 - (i) its microchip number;
 - (ii) its sex;
 - (iii) its colour; 10
 - (iv) the colour of any collar;
 - (v) the location where it was found;
 - (vi) ownership details;
 - (vii) a photograph of the cat
 and to hold that information with the body of the cat. 15
 - (f) to contact organisations registered in accordance with subsection (3).
- (3) The Secretary of State must, by regulations, make provision for—
- (a) a register of approved cat and cat owner reunification organisations;
 - (b) information to be provided by relevant local authorities to such organisations in accordance with subsection (2)(f). 20
- (4) The Secretary of State must issue guidance to local authorities on carrying out their duties under this section.
- (5) In this section, “relevant local authority” means—
- (a) a district council,
 - (b) a county council for an area for which there is no district council, 25
 - (c) a London borough council,
 - (d) the Common Council of the City of London in its capacity as a local authority, and
 - (e) the Council of the Isles of Scilly.
- 3 Financial provisions** 30
- There shall be paid out of money provided by Parliament—*
- (a) any expenditure incurred by the Secretary of State by virtue of this Act, and
 - (b) any increase attributable to this Act in the sums which by virtue of any other Act are payable out of money so provided.
- 4 Regulations** 35
- (1) Regulations under this Act —
- (a) are to be made by statutory instrument;
 - (b) may make different provision for different purposes;

- (c) may not be made unless a draft of the statutory instrument containing them has been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, each House of Parliament.
- (2) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a draft of a statutory instrument containing the first regulations under both sections 1 and 2 no later than the end of the period of 60 days beginning with the day on which this section comes into force. 5

5 Extent, commencement and short title

- (1) This Act extends to England and Wales only.
- (2) Subject to subsection (3), this Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed. 10
- (3) Sections 1 and 2 come into force at the end of the period of 90 days beginning with the day on which this Act is passed.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Pets (Microchips) Act 2021.

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*Presented by James Daly
supported by Anthony Mangnall, Andrew Griffith,
Antony Higginbotham, James Sunderland,
Joy Morrissey, Sara Britcliffe, Mark Logan,
Mark Eastwood, Sir Graham Brady, Chris Loder,
Andy Carter and Jim Shannon.*

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