

**SWYDDFA CYMORTH Y CABINET  
CABINET SUPPORT OFFICE**

Fy Nghyf / My Ref : MM

Eich Cyf / Your Ref: P-05-779

Dyddiad / Date : 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018



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Mr David J Rowlands AM  
Chair of the Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Annwyl/Dear David,

**Re: P-05-779 Correspondence from the Chair of the Petitions Committee –  
Compulsory Scanning of Domestic Pets for Microchips by Councils**

Thank you for your letter dated 25 January 2018 regarding the compulsory scanning of deceased domestic pets for microchips by councils in Wales, which was sent to the Council's Chief Executive.

I can confirm that following a review that was undertaken in 2010, Cardiff Council has implemented a process for dealing specifically with deceased dogs found on the adopted highway in the city. If and when they find and are able to recover the deceased dog, Council officers will take the animal to Cardiff Dogs Home where the dog is then scanned and where possible, the dog owner will be informed based on the information provided by any microchip that is present.

Cardiff Dogs Home is manned 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and keeps both a register of dogs impounded in the Dogs Home and those reported lost. A log is also kept of all deceased dogs that are scanned at the Dogs Home.

Unfortunately, there are some instances where dogs are hit and killed by vehicles on high speed roads and it can be extremely difficult to recover the animal carcass or find the microchip to enable it to be scanned. In such instances, the safety of council employees and the general public must take priority in any operational decision to recover the animal carcass from the adopted highway. The Council's Street Cleansing Service will keep a record of such incidents and where feasible, will also retain any recoverable items such as dog collars and tags, which can then be passed on to the dog owner. However, generally in these circumstances, the



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The Council welcomes correspondence in English and Welsh and we will ensure that we communicate with you in the language of your choice, whether that's English, Welsh or bilingual as long as you let us know which you prefer. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to any delay.

Cyflawni ein gwledigaeth o ddod y brifddinas orau i fyw ynddi yn Ewrop

Mae'r Cyngor yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg a byddwn yn sicrhau ein bod yn cyfathrebu â chi yn eich dewis iaith boed yn Gymraeg, yn Saesneg neu'n ddwyieithog dim ond i chi rot gwybod i ni pa un sydd well gennych. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn creu unrhyw oedi.

deceased dogs have to be disposed of appropriately in accordance with relevant waste and animal health regulations.

I can further confirm that the Council is considering expanding this process to include the recovery, scanning and disposal of other deceased domestic pets, such as cats, which are found on the adopted highway. We have also looked into the possibility of taking any deceased cats that are recovered to local vets, as opposed to the Dogs Home for obvious reasons, but have been unable to find a partner that was willing to support this service.

As a result, the Council has introduced an informal process whereby cat owners can contact the Council's contact centre, Connect to Cardiff (C2C), with a location and description of their missing pet and officers from the Street Cleansing Service will then check any records held to see if the cat has been found dead and disposed of appropriately by Council officers. Where there is a likely match, the owner is then contacted to inform them of their loss. However, it is not currently compulsory for cat owners to have their pets microchipped in the same way as dogs and therefore, the routine scanning of all deceased cats found on the adopted highway is considered to be both time consuming and inappropriate in terms of maintaining the efficiency of our highway and street cleansing operations.

As the relevant Cabinet Secretary pointed out in correspondence to your Committee back in September 2017, the Welsh Government saw no need previously to require local authorities to compulsorily scan dogs for microchips when developing the current legislation that requires the microchipping of all dogs in Wales. Any proposal for the Welsh Government to mandate the compulsory microchipping and scanning of domestic cats or pets more generally would therefore require a review of existing legislation and guidance. This would also have specific operational and cost implications for local authorities.

The Council understands the views that have been expressed by the petitioner to the National Assembly for Wales and by other cat owners or animal welfare charities in previous correspondence with the Council on this matter. However at this point in time, the Council believes that the introduction of a voluntary charter, based on existing best practice, which sets out how deceased domestic pets found on the adopted highway will be dealt with by local authorities, may provide a more appropriate way forward that the Welsh Government may wish to consider.

Yn gwyir,  
Yours sincerely,



**Cynghorydd / Councillor Michael Michael**  
**Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Recycling & Environment /**  
**Aelod Cabinet dros Strydoedd Glân, Ailgylchu a'r Amgylchedd**