



## Position on The Welsh Government's Review of Microchipping Regulations

Our individual organisations have long supported the introduction of compulsory microchipping and welcomed the Microchipping of Dogs (Wales) Regulations 2015. CAWGW is pleased that the Welsh Government will be carrying out a review of these regulations.

CAWGW believes that compulsory microchipping has significantly reduced the number of stray dogs across Wales. There are around 600,00 dogs living in Wales<sup>1</sup> and the stray dog population has been reduced from 9,482 in 2011<sup>2</sup> down to 5,730 in 2018<sup>3</sup>, which in turn has seen more dogs reunited with owners, lessened the burden on animal welfare charities and cut kennelling costs for local authorities.

There are several areas that CAWGW would like the Welsh Government to review in order to address compliance and enforcement of current legislation:

A microchip on its own is meaningless. In 2018, of the seized stray dogs who had microchips, 53% of dogs were unable to be returned to their owners, due to incorrect contact or out of date details being registered on the chip<sup>4</sup>. We would ask the Government to help increase education and awareness of how vital it is that owners keep their details up to date on the relevant database.

CAWGW recognises that local authorities across Wales lack adequate resources to implement and enforce new legislation. We would like to see a commitment from the Welsh Government to produce clear guidance and increase support to local authorities to ensure effective enforcement of these regulations.

In order to reduce variation across different local authorities in both enforcement and levels of fines imposed we would like to see co-ordination and sharing of knowledge among different local authorities, helping to protect the welfare of dogs right across Wales.

<sup>1</sup> [www.pdsa.org.uk/get-involved/our-campaigns/pdsa-animal-wellbeing-report](http://www.pdsa.org.uk/get-involved/our-campaigns/pdsa-animal-wellbeing-report)

<sup>2</sup> [www.stray-afp.org/nl/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Straydog-survey-summary-report-2011-for-Dogstrust.pdf](http://www.stray-afp.org/nl/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/Straydog-survey-summary-report-2011-for-Dogstrust.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www.dogstrust.org.uk/about-us/publications/stray%20dogs%20survey%20report%202017-2018.pdf](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/about-us/publications/stray%20dogs%20survey%20report%202017-2018.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [www.dogstrust.org.uk/about-us/publications/stray%20dogs%20survey%20report%202017-2018.pdf](http://www.dogstrust.org.uk/about-us/publications/stray%20dogs%20survey%20report%202017-2018.pdf)