

Compulsory Microchipping for Pet Cats

Presented by:

- Madison Rogers, Head Of Advocacy, Campaigns and Government Relations
- Sarah Elliott, Central Veterinary Officer



Agenda

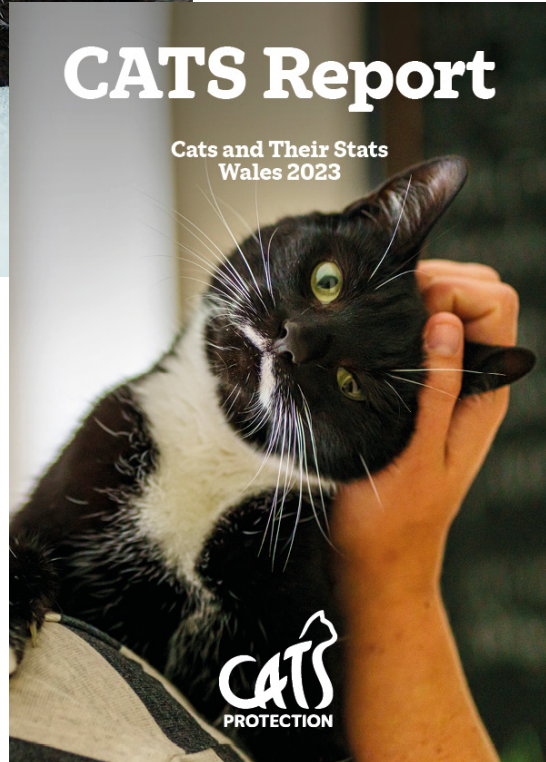
- State of the nation - microchipping
- The new law in England
- What this means for veterinary staff – Case Studies



State of the Nation – Microchipping

Current cat microchipping numbers
and attitudes





What is the CATS Report?

Report published 8th
November

To request a physical
copy please email
advocacy@cats.org.uk



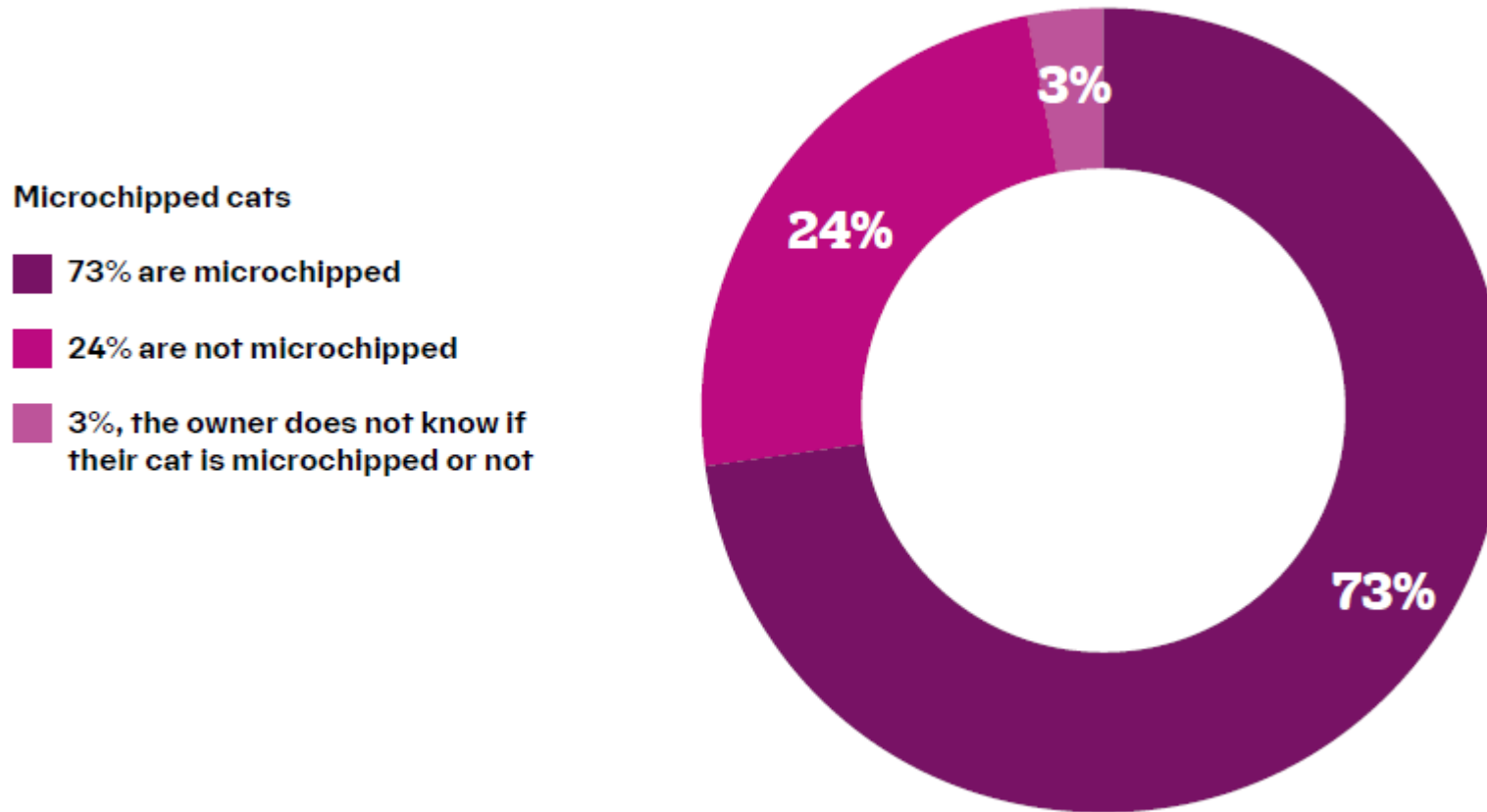
What percentage of cats are currently microchipped in the UK?

- a) 65%
- b) 73%
- c) 85%
- d) 92%

73%



Microchipping of cats in the UK



This means that up to **around 3 million cats** are potentially without a microchip

The cats less likely to be microchipped

- Only 66% of those aged 18-24 own microchipped cats.
- There is a significant difference between the microchipping rates of cats acquired in the last 12 months (60%) and those acquired over a year ago (76%).
- This figure is lower than the same group from the year before (65%), suggesting that **new owners are increasingly less likely to microchip their cat.**



What do you think is the most popular reason stated by owners as to why they have not microchipped their cat?

- a) my cat does not go outside
- b) my cat does not stray/go far
- c) I just hadn't thought about microchipping
- d) I just can't afford it

my cat does not go outside



Why do owners not microchip their cat?

Top reasons cat owners choose not to microchip their cat³⁰

My cat doesn't go outside

27%

My cat doesn't stray/go far

18%

I just hadn't thought about microchipping my cat

14%

I can't afford it:

13%

Keeping details up to date

- 92% of cats with a microchip have up to date details.
- Of those who say their cat's microchip details are up to date:
 - 85% say their phone contact is up to date
 - 84% say their current address is up to date
 - 76% say their email address is up to date
 - 5% are unsure which specific details are up to date





The new law in England

What does the new law state
Support from Cats Protection



Compulsory microchipping of cats

10th June 2024
England only

- **Cats must be microchipped before they reach the age of 20 weeks.**
- Their contact details must be stored and kept up to date in a pet microchipping database.
- Owners found not to have their cat microchipped will be given 21 days to comply or may face a fine of up to £500.
- Feral and unowned cats are exempt from the new microchipping rules.

From 10 June 2024 it will be compulsory to microchip your pet cat in England



Support from Cats Protection

**Let's make microchipping
compulsory for pet cats
in Wales**

- Campaigns planned to increase public awareness ahead of 10th June.
- Our Advocacy team will continue to campaign for compulsory microchipping to be introduced in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.





Veterinary practices and rescues

Case Studies



Case study 1:



An injured stray cat is brought to the veterinary practice. The cat does not have a microchip.

What should the practice do with this cat?

- a) Contact the local cat rescue, so that they will cover the costs of treatment.
- b) Withhold treatment while attempts are made to find an owner.
- c) Provide emergency treatment only.

Provide emergency treatment only.



Case study 2:

A microchipped stray is brought in. There have been several days of documented attempts to contact the owner. The finder is happy to keep the cat, but the database needs the registered keeper's permission to change the details registered to the chip.

How will you ensure this cat is compliant with the new microchipping rules?



- a) Try to persuade the database, but if all else fails, insert a second microchip, with notes on the clinical records linking it to the first.
- b) Inform the finder to take the cat to a cat rescue charity, who have powers to change the microchip details without an owner.
- c) Make a note on the clinical records that you have tried to re-register the chip to the new owner but were unsuccessful.

Try to persuade the database, but if all else fails, insert a second microchip, with notes on the clinical records linking it to the first



Case study 3:



A client brings in a cat for a check-up. They say they found the cat as a stray a couple of years ago. They want to keep the cat and are reluctant for you to scan for a microchip. You do scan and you find a chip. The cat's finder doesn't want you to contact the registered keeper.

What should you do?

- a) You must contact the registered keeper and let them know who has found their cat.
- b) Contact the database to let them know the cat has been brought in by someone else, but don't release any further details.
- c) You should contact the police, as this could be theft.

Contact the database to let them know the cat has been brought in by someone else, but don't release any further details



Thank you!

For further information email veterinary@cats.org.uk or
advocacy@cats.org.uk

If you have a query relating specifically to statistics, email
stats@cats.org.uk

