



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Cat and Dog Microchipping Reform in England



Compulsory Cat and Dog Microchipping



Drivers for reform

Post implementation review

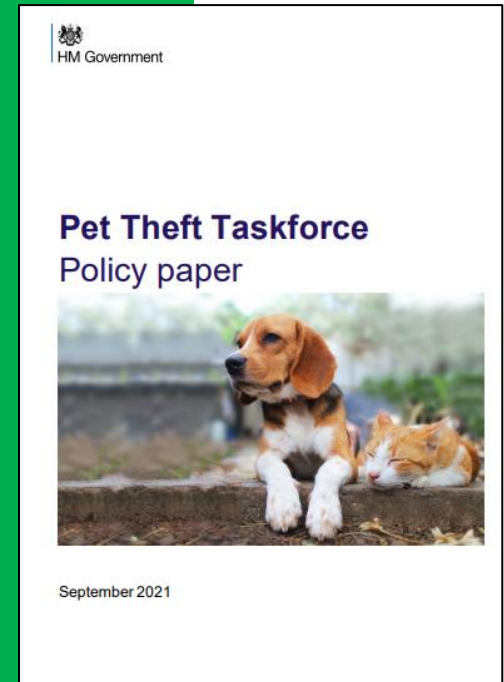
...identified issues with the current operation of the database system, including:

- challenges of accessing records
- out of date records
- inconsistent standards and processes adopted by database companies

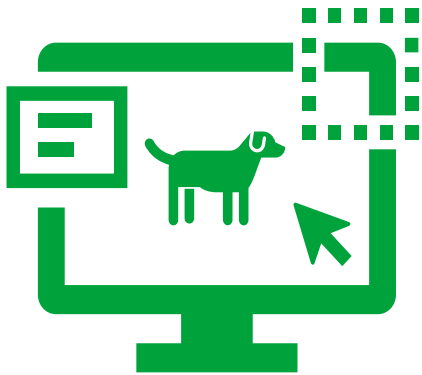
Pet Theft Taskforce

We recommend introducing:

- new requirements to register more details on dog microchip databases,
- taking forward other improvements to how the databases work, including exploring a single point of access
- enabling changes of keeper to be tracked more closely.



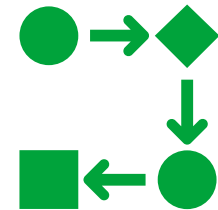
Consultation - 2022



**Making it
easier for
approved
users to
access
records**



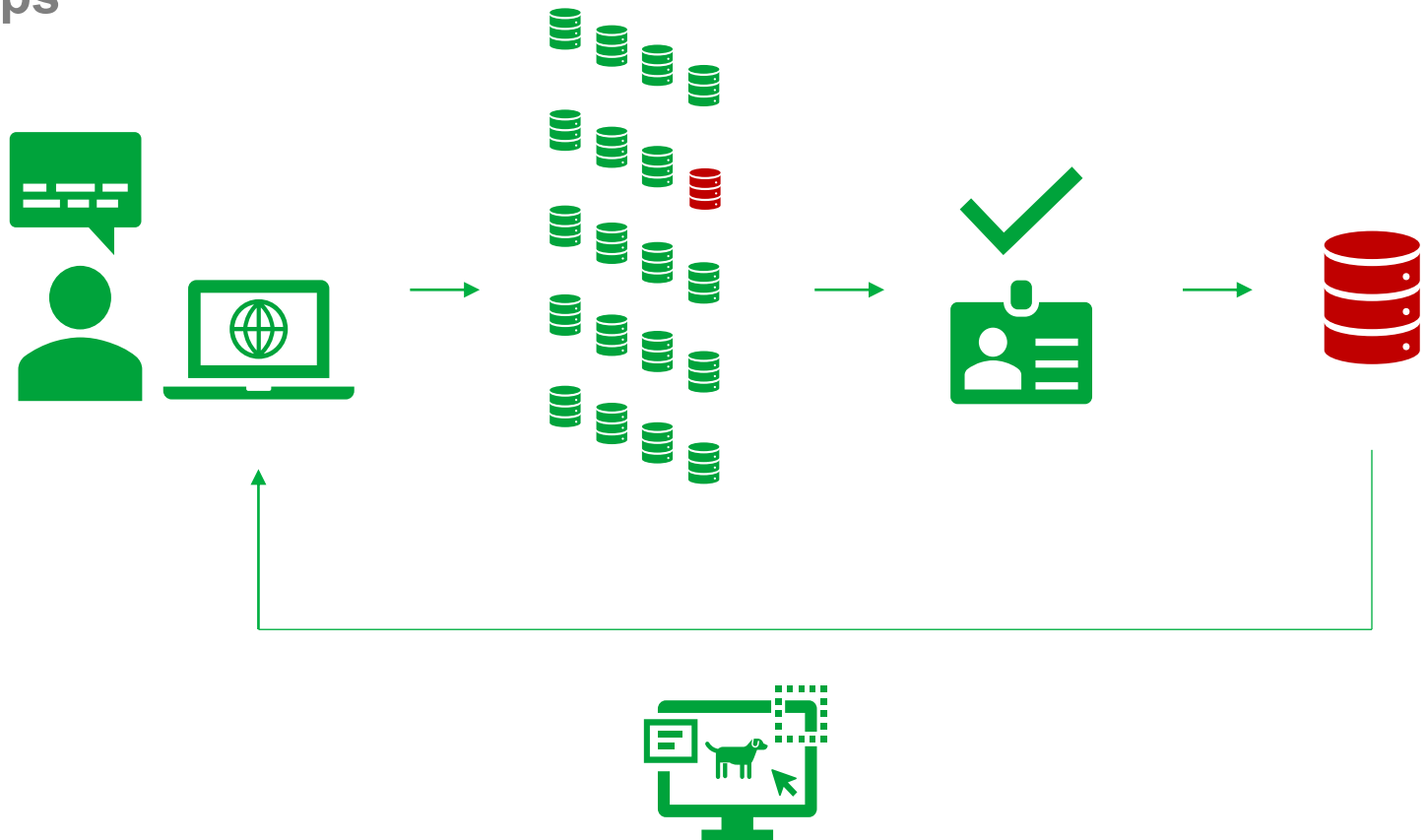
**Improving the
accuracy of
records**



**Standardise
database
operator
processes**

Single Point of Search

“We plan to support the development of a single point of search portal, working further with database operators and key user groups”



Single Point of Search

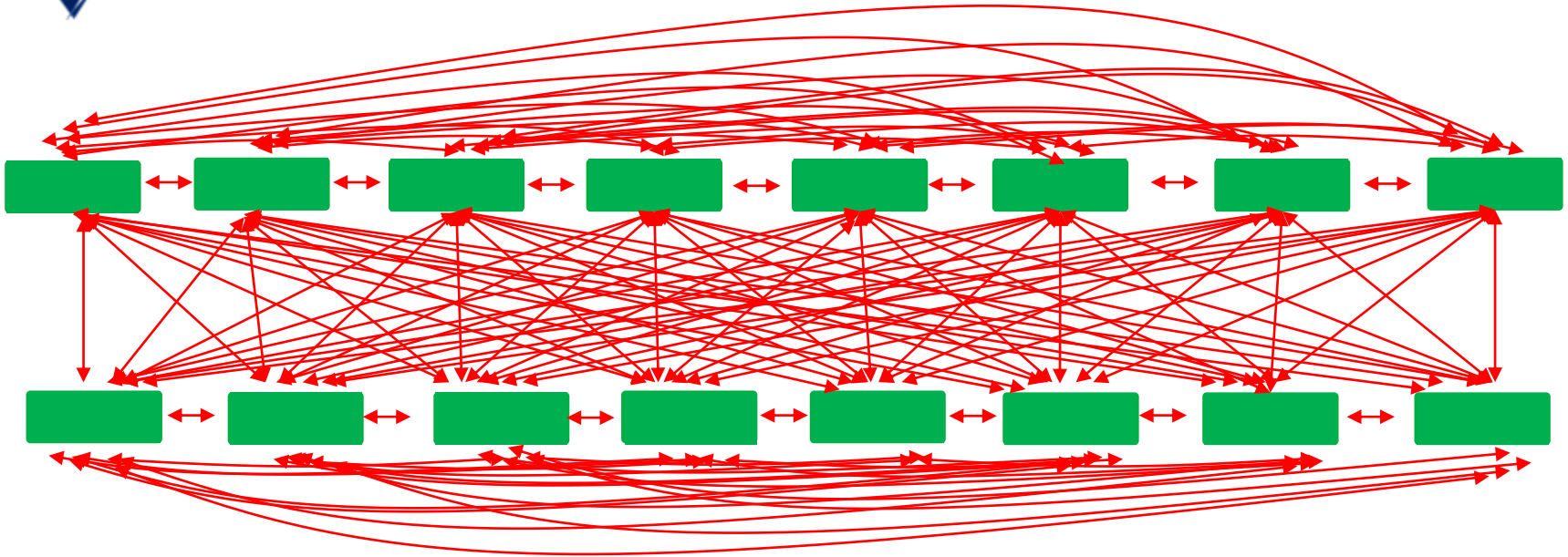
Support scanning campaigns

- Fern's law
- Tuk's Law
- Gizmo's Legacy

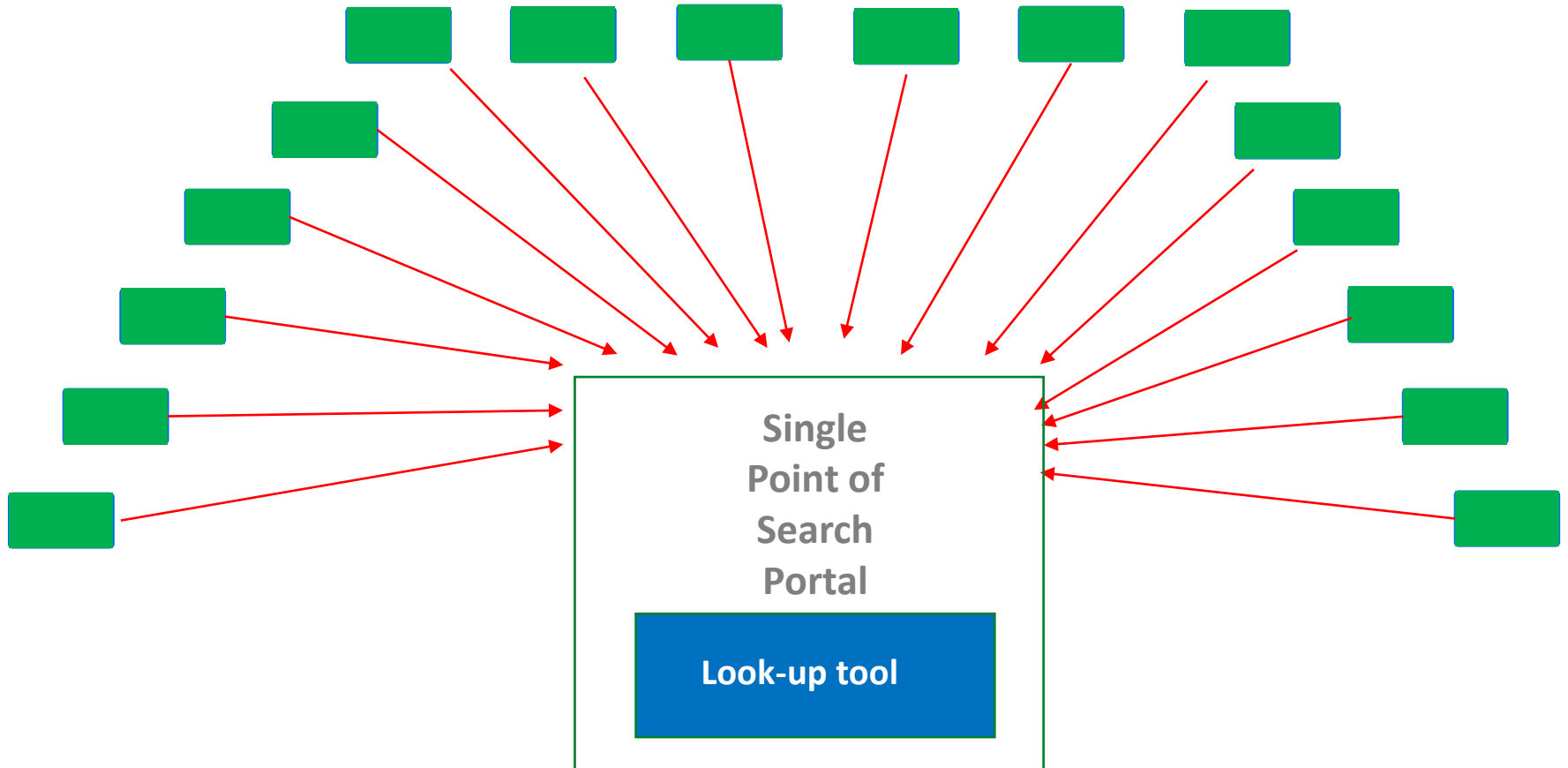


Check-a-Chip now

Look-up: microchip number 123456789012345



Single Point of Search



Updating records

- Annual reminder to check record is up to date
- Make it easier to update
- Ensure fees are proportionate and transparent



Adobe Stock | #240417300

**TIME TO
UPDATE!**

Duplicate records



- **Creates complexity**
- **Harder to determine where pet resides**
- **Creates opportunity to register stolen pets**
- **Will require database operators not to create duplicate registrations**

Transfer of keepership

- Strengthening process key recommendation of Pet Theft Taskforce
- Requirement to seek approval from the current keeper
- Allow current keeper 28 days to object
- Apply unless sufficient supporting evidence is available

Stop
Check
Correct
Go



Recording Missing Pets

- **Mandatory requirement to record pet as missing**



Improving Breeder Traceability

- Dog's breeder information to be permanent part of the record
- Details of the puppy's dam to become mandatory and permanent part of the record



Regulating database operators



- Work with database operators to ensure there is clear guidance
- Explore how database operators can demonstrate compliance

Implanting



- Review of the existing process for approving these courses
- Develop an approach for regular review of the training

Compulsory Cat Microchipping



- From 10 June 2024, all owned cats over the age of 20 weeks must be microchipped and registered with a compliant database

Next Steps

- **Further discussions with database operators to refine recommendations**
- **End 2024 - Amendments planned to the Microchipping of Cats and Dogs (England) Regulations 2023**
- **2025 – Planned introduction of the Single Point of Search**