

## **Petlog: Local Authority Summary**

### **1. What is the process you operate when stray dogs are picked up? (with a microchip and without a microchip)**

All 69 local authorities reported a similar pattern of procedure for both dogs that are microchipped and for those that are not.

*Microchipped procedure:* Once a lost dog was found, they would be scanned for a microchip. Once the dog wardens obtained the microchip details, they would contact the database for owner details and then attempt to get in touch with the owner. If the owner's details were up to date, then the dog was returned. If the dog owners details were correct but they were not in, then the dog warden would leave them a message (voicemail, letter, etc) notifying them that their pet was found and how to get back in touch with the dog warden. If the details were outdated or the owner not reachable, then the dog was kennelled.

*Non microchipped procedure:* Same as above, except instead of scanning – the dog warden checks for tattoo or collar tag details.

It is worth noting that for repeated cases of a particular dog being lost; the dog warden will place it in a kennel despite having the owner's details and being able to notify them.

### **2. Do you have a standard set of fee/charges that pet owners incur if their dog is picked up? (with a microchip and without a microchip)**

The fees and charges incurred to pet owners when dogs are picked up vary from one local authority to the other. Whether a pet was microchipped or not did have any significant impact on pricing.

The mean average for pets that were microchipped (based on 66 local authorities who provided cost figures) is £42 and for non microchipped pets £46.2.

The mode average of the fee/charges that were incurred for both microchipped and non microchipped pets was £25.

In addition to these charges, the additional day charges which were added to the initial fee differed between the councils and were normally in the range of £5-£25.

Furthermore, councils may charge more when pets have been found out of regular working hours. For example, in Cherwell council customary charges are £25 with an additional £10 per day up to eight days with an additional £55 added if dog was picked up by out of hours service.

Wandsworth Council and South Bucks Council were the only council that did not have any fees or charges for returning lost pets. In addition, Three Rivers Council did not charge pet owners with microchipped pets the first time their pet was lost, however full charges were incurred after this first exemption.

### **3. Do you think the charges should be different for dogs that are microchipped and dogs that are not microchipped?**

Out of the 69 responses, three councils did not answer the question and another three were unclear in their responses.

There were 13 'yes' responses (19.6%) and 51 'no' responses (77%).

Some of the reasons cited for both supporting and being against a difference in charges for dogs that are microchipped and dogs that are not microchipped are outlined below:

- Daventry District Council who said 'yes' did so in the hope that a difference in charges would encourage a further proliferation of microchipped pets
- Chichester Council who said 'no' argued that it costs local authorities the same to pick up a lost dog with a microchip and one that is not microchipped
- Reading Council which argued against a difference in charges commented that "8/10 dogs that we pick up that are chipped do not have up to date info registered"
- Rochford Council supporting a difference stated that their support was dependent on details being up to date.

### **4. Do you have a website with the above information available?**

Out of the 69 responses, one council did not respond.

There were 57 'yes' responses (84%) and 11 'no' responses (16%).

### **5. Do you publish this information in local newsletters/papers**

Out of the 69 responses, one council did not respond.

There were 16 'yes' responses (24%) and 52 'no' responses (76%).

**6. What is your preferred method in reuniting a dog with a microchip?**

The preferred method in reuniting a dog with a microchip for all respondents was the telephone, except for Westlothian Council which prefers text and Wandsworth Council which prefers to use the website.

**7. Petlog and the Kennel Club would like to host a day for local authorities to discuss microchipping matters further. Would this be of interest to you?**

The large majority of the local authorities involved in the survey indicated that they would be willing to discuss microchipping matters further (please see excel file for details provided of contact person and suitable dates).

There were 10 councils (Bristol, Bury, West Dunbartonshire, Richmond, Cotswold, Wycombe, Brent, Ashfield, Thurrock and South Bucks) that were not interested and an additional two who did not answer the question (Chichester and Barrow).