Manifesto for Cats: Scotland

In brief

Cats are hugely popular pets providing love, affection and companionship. In Scotland, 23 per cent of households has at least one cat which is an estimated cat population of approximately 900,000.[1]

The *Manifesto for Cats: Scotland* forms part of Cats Protection's advocacy work on "speaking up for cats," campaigning for change that will deliver a better world for cats. There are many actions that the Scottish Government and local governments can do to ensure this.

• **Cat breeding:** updating the law to control the breeding and sale of cats to reduce the number of unwanted kittens and ensure good welfare

• **Microchipping:** making it compulsory to microchip owned cats

• **Regulating air guns:** enforcement and monitoring of new air gun licencing laws to prevent injury or death to cats shot by these weapons

• **Dangerous dogs**: a review of the effectiveness of Dog Control Notices as a way of preventing dog attacks on cats

• **Animal welfare education:** inclusion of animal welfare in the Scottish curriculum so that all children learn about responsible pet care

• **Cats and housing providers:** Scottish Government recognition of the needs of people with cats or other companion animals in rented housing and care homes to allow people to keep their pets

• **Care and wellbeing**: Scottish Government recognition of the benefits cats and other companion animals bring to health and personal wellbeing

• **Labelling toxic products:** clear labelling of flowers, plants and household products that are toxic to cats so cat owners know which to avoid

• **Banning snares:** an outright ban on the use of snares on the basis they are inhumane and cruel and inflict suffering, injury or death upon animals caught in them, including cats

• **Illegal imports:** creating a national database to ensure that a central record is kept of all cats entering the UK legally so those entering illegally without a rabies vaccine can be identified without delay

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[1] Pers. comm PDSA – source data PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report 2015