

# Manifesto for Cats: Wales



The Manifesto for Cats: Wales forms part of Cats Protection's advocacy work "Speaking up for cats", campaigning for change that will deliver a better world for cats.



## Cat breeding

Updating the law to control the breeding and sale of cats to reduce the number of unwanted kittens



## Microchipping

Making it compulsory to microchip owned cats



## Regulating air guns

Much stricter regulation of the ownership of air guns and crossbows to prevent injury or death to cats shot by such weapons



## Dangerous dogs

Amendments to anti-social behaviour legislation to allow prosecution of dog owners whose dogs attack, injure or kill cats



## Animal welfare education

Inclusion of animal welfare in the Welsh curriculum so that all children learn about responsible pet care



## Cats & housing providers

Welsh 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

Welsh 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

Cats Protection is the UK's leading feline welfare charity. Our focus is on controlling cat populations through neutering, reducing the number of stray and unwanted cats, rehoming cats and providing education and information about cat welfare. In Wales, we rehomed over 2,600 cats and kittens in 2014. We are supported by over 930 volunteers who give their time by rescuing and rehoming strays, helping cats get neutered, fundraising, or speaking to schoolchildren and adult community groups about cat care. This work is carried out by seven volunteer-run branches, two adoption centres and 13 shops in Wales. Our vision is "a world where every cat is treated with kindness and an understanding of its needs".



## People care about cats

Cats are hugely popular pets providing love, affection and companionship. The most recent survey statistics show that across the UK, 25 per cent of the population has a cat - that's an estimated 11.1 million cats.<sup>1</sup> In Wales, 29 per cent of households have at least one cat, which is an estimated cat population of approximately 670,000.<sup>2</sup> A Welsh National survey showed that cats are the second most popular pet in Wales, with 39 per cent of pet owners choosing to share their home with them.<sup>3</sup>

Cats Protection has a large social media presence in Wales, with over 20,000 likes for our Welsh branch and adoption centre Facebook pages. Nationally, Cats Protection's Facebook page has over 330,000 likes with thousands of people every day liking, discussing and sharing our messages.<sup>4</sup>

As a political issue, animal welfare matters – it affects the way people vote. A YouGov<sup>5</sup> poll asked voters to name issues that will determine how they cast their vote. In Wales, 18 per cent of those surveyed named animal welfare as such an issue – more than the UK-wide figure of 14 per cent. So not only is cat ownership higher in Wales than the national average but animal welfare issues are more important to Welsh voters as well. The National Assembly for Wales election in 2016 presents an opportunity for politicians to “Speak up for cats”.

### A Manifesto for Cats

There are many actions that the Welsh Government and local governments can do to ensure a better world for cats. The public are constantly in touch with Cats Protection about issues of concern, whether it is cats being attacked and injured by dogs, landlords refusing to accept tenants with cats, or kittens being bred uncontrollably from both domestic and feral cats.



In Wales 18 per cent of voters say that animal welfare issues influence their vote

- YouGov poll, 2014



Photo: Sue Dobbs



## Breeding for sale: updating the law to control the breeding and sale of cats to reduce the number of unwanted kittens.



### Recommendations:

- collaboration between the Welsh Government, animal welfare charities and professional bodies to encourage cat owners to neuter their cats
- Welsh Government support for community projects that encourage cat neutering and responsible pet ownership
- new regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to regulate the breeding and sale of cats
- consideration of a new Code of Practice under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 covering the breeding of cats
- collaboration with animal welfare charities and professional bodies to develop mandatory training and accreditation for those that breed and sell cats
- updated regulations on pet vending to replace the Pet Animals Act 1951 including a ban on the sale of kittens in pet shops
- Government review of UK and EU best practice and regulatory frameworks governing cat breeding
- collaboration between the Welsh Government and animal welfare charities and professional bodies to develop a "kitten checklist" to guide consumers who purchase a kitten

At Cats Protection we know there are more cats and kittens than there are loving homes. In the two year period up until the end of 2014, our Welsh adoption centres saw a 46 per cent increase in the number of kittens from "unwanted litters" handed into our care. Yet despite the alarming rise in the number of kittens given up to our centres, we still see scores of cats and kittens advertised for sale online, with compelling evidence of commercial breeding where the same advertisers are placing successive adverts for kittens.

In the two year period up until the end of 2014, our Welsh adoption centres saw a 46 per cent increase in the number of kittens from "unwanted litters" handed into our care.

For many years Cats Protection volunteers and staff have been deeply concerned about cats bred in poor welfare conditions. These include those who breed and sell cats, often from domestic premises, and are more motivated by money than welfare. Equally we are concerned where owners simply do not have their cat neutered, allowing female cats to have multiple litters of kittens and relying on family, friends or neighbours to take them on. These unplanned kittens are all too often the ones which become unwanted and abandoned adult cats.

Recent figures show 38 per cent of owners acquired their cat from a friend, relative or neighbour, compared to only 21 per cent who adopted from an animal charity or rescue centre. A further 16 per cent of owners say they took in their cat as a stray off the street.<sup>6</sup> These figures suggest a large number of unplanned kittens are either given away or abandoned.

Neutering is the most effective way to reduce the number of unwanted kittens and control the stray and feral cat population. In 2014, Cats Protection's seven volunteer-run branches and two adoption centres in Wales neutered nearly 6,000 cats.<sup>7</sup> Despite this, the latest statistics estimate that in Wales around 33,000 owned cats are not neutered.<sup>8</sup> Cats are prolific breeders, with just one unneutered female capable of giving birth to around 18 kittens a year. One unneutered female cat can give rise to 20,000 offspring in just five years so it's easy to see how cat numbers can rapidly get out of control.

Cats Protection, along with PDSA, RSPCA and Dogs Trust has successfully run "pet checks" in communities across Wales. These offer advice and financial support in the form of neutering vouchers to encourage cat owners to neuter their pets. More projects like this are needed. In 2016 Cats Protection will be launching a new initiative to encourage more neutering of owned cats across Wales.

Unlike dog breeding, for which new regulations<sup>9</sup> to tackle irresponsible breeding were recently introduced by the Welsh Government, cat breeding is unregulated in Wales and elsewhere in the UK. Regulation would provide safeguards for cat welfare through licence conditions and inspection.

The European Commission announced proposals in April 2015 for registration from 2020 of those that breed and sell pets.<sup>10</sup> There are existing laws governing the breeding and sale of pets (Pet Animals Act 1951) but these are in urgent need of updating. There is some self-regulation and good breeding practice, particularly among those who breed and register pedigree cats with bodies such as The Governing Council of the Cat Fancy.

Regulation of commercial cat breeding already exists in some EU Countries including Belgium and the Netherlands, in various US states and in New South Wales and Victoria, Australia.

"Newtown & District Branch of Cats Protection has experience of cat owners refusing neutering vouchers because they can make money from selling the kittens. They regularly see kittens for sale online from the same sellers."<sup>11</sup>

- Cats Protection, Newtown & District Branch



## Restrictions to control the use of air guns: much stricter regulation of the ownership of air guns and crossbows to prevent injury or death to cats shot by such weapons.

On average, over four cats a week in the UK are reported as having been shot with an air gun.<sup>12</sup> During the first six months of 2015, there was a worrying increase of 71 per cent in air gun attacks on cats in Wales compared to numbers recorded during the last six months of 2014.<sup>13</sup>

Typically, pellets become lodged in the cat's body, its brain, eyes, spine or vital organs, often causing fatal injuries. A cat will frequently leave the scene and, as is normal feline behaviour, may crawl away to hide or die in a secluded spot. Many air gun injuries are not immediately obvious to the cat owner and the delay in detecting air gun pellets makes it harder to establish when and where the shooting happened.

Where air guns are used randomly, casually or deliberately to inflict injuries on cats and other animals, we are aware that owners are often unable to proceed to prosecution under current law for reasons relating to evidence. A stricter licensing scheme would restrict air gun licences to those that have a legitimate reason for them.

A licence is not required to own a low powered air gun in England and Wales. The Firearms (Dangerous Air Weapons) Rules 1969 states that only weapons classified as "specifically dangerous" – with a kinetic energy of six foot lbs (just over eight joules) – require a licence. In Scotland, the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act is due to come into force in 2016 and will require all air guns with a kinetic energy of one joule or more to be licenced. This much lower energy limit means that owners of low powered air weapons will need to hold a licence, as well as being required to show good reason for owning the weapon.

### Recommendations:

- strengthened control of air guns in Wales to ensure that only those who can show a legitimate reason for owning an air gun can obtain one under licence
- a licensing threshold of kinetic energy of one joule in line with the requirements of the Air Weapons and Licensing (Scotland) Act

### Garfield's story<sup>14</sup>

Garfield was just over a year old when he returned home with a deep wound close to his eye. Owner Claire Denyer, who lives near New Quay, was horrified when an X-ray image showed an air gun pellet embedded deep into his flesh. Vets advised the pellet be left in place as removing it would result in Garfield losing his eye, but he will need close monitoring to ensure it doesn't move.

Had the air gun pellet landed just a few millimetres either side, vets said Garfield would have been blinded or even killed.



### Mr Snow and Dave's story<sup>15</sup>

Helen Davies, of Pentrecwrt, made the heart-breaking decision to rehome her much-loved cats Dave and Mr Snow after both were injured in air gun attacks. Dave was the first to need emergency surgery after coming home with a facial injury inflicted by an air gun pellet. Just a few months later, Mr Snow sustained a terrible injury to the back of his neck and needed surgery to remove a large pellet. Helen said: "The police were very sympathetic but there was not much they could do, it was just recorded as criminal damage. After the second attack I became so worried they would be shot again and killed, so we made the very hard decision to send them to live with my daughter. I miss them being here so much, but I just couldn't allow it to happen again."





**Cats entering the UK:**  
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.

A total of 43,829 cats and kittens were recorded as having entered the UK legally under the EU Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) in the three years to 2014.<sup>16</sup> PETS governs the non-commercial movement of pets. Cats Protection is concerned where cats or kittens enter the country unchecked and/or illegally as this presents a potential public health risk as well as a threat to animal welfare. Just one cat or kitten smuggled in could put Wales and the rest of the UK at risk of a case of rabies or other infectious diseases.

In November 2013 a cat was identified in Paris as having rabies.<sup>17</sup> In May 2015, a dog which had illegally been taken to Algeria died from rabies after returning to the Rhône-Alpes region of France.<sup>18</sup> Currently there is no centralised database recording all pet cats entering the country under the PETS scheme. Such a database would confirm that a cat had been checked, scanned for a microchip and had entered the country legally. Currently only animals that are declared get checked before entering the UK.

Cats Protection is one of 40 animal welfare members of Eurogroup for Animals, recognised by the European parliament as the leading body representing animal welfare issues in the EU. In 2015, the group launched a campaign to unify pet microchip databases within Europe, a move which will make it much easier to determine where an animal has come from.

#### Recommendations:

- creation of a national database that registers details of all companion animals that have entered the country legitimately. The database should be linked to an EU database which is accessible across the EU to maximise traceability
- Welsh Government guidance for Local Authorities, trading standards officers, welfare charities etc on procedures to follow if a cat is suspected of being an illegal import (including specific guidance on when to quarantine)
- random checking of cars and other vehicles to look for cats and dogs that are being smuggled into Wales and the rest of the UK





## Dog attacks on cats: amendments to anti-social behaviour legislation to allow prosecution of dog owners whose dogs attack, injure or kill cats.

In the first six months of 2015 over four cats a month were reported in the UK press as having been the victim of a dog attack. Sadly 70 per cent of these dog attacks on cats were reported as fatal.<sup>19</sup>

The vast majority of dog owners are responsible and keep their dogs under control. However, in cases where a cat or other animal is injured or killed when an owner fails to control their dog, the law needs strengthening.

Recent amendments to laws on dangerous dogs, now included within the Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014, have extended the law to cover dog attacks on assistance dogs,<sup>20</sup> but not on other animals such as cats. An attack by a dog on a cat can denote a dangerous dog. Too frequently cases are reported where a fatal attack on a child was preceded by a prior attack on a cat. Current laws regarding dog attacks on cats are inadequate and successful prosecutions are hard to secure.

Prevention is always better than prosecution. Cats Protection was pleased to see specific reference to preventing dog attacks on cats within new Government guidance on the use of anti-social behaviour measures by the police and Local Authorities in Wales and England.<sup>21</sup> The challenge now is to monitor the effective use of this guidance.

### Recommendations:

- inclusion of a new offence within the new anti-social behaviour legislation where a dog attacks a cat or other "protected animal"<sup>22</sup>
- full use of preventative measures within new anti-social behaviour legislation to minimise dog attacks on cats and promote responsible dog ownership
- Government coordination of data evidencing dog attacks on cats in Wales and monitoring of the use by enforcers of preventative anti-social behaviour measures

### Bella's story

Four-year-old Bella was left for dead when she was attacked by a dog near her home in Cefn Mawr in August 2015. Her injuries were so horrific that owner Laura Woodcock initially thought she had been struck by a car when she discovered her limp body beside a road. Bella was rushed to an emergency veterinary surgery where three different vets confirmed her injuries had been inflicted by a dog. Bella was left with multiple infected puncture wounds and a dislocated knee for which she has undergone an operation and two months of veterinary treatment. Laura said: "Bella was incredibly lucky to survive. We haven't been able to trace the dog which did this and I shudder to think what else it may be capable of. Responsible dog owners keep their pets under control, whoever owns this one clearly wasn't doing that."<sup>23</sup>





## Animal welfare education: inclusion of animal welfare in the Welsh curriculum so all children learn about responsible pet care.



Children are the pet owners of tomorrow and it's essential they leave school with an understanding of how to care for and respect animals. Developing an understanding in young people of responsible pet ownership would result in an improvement in some of the animal welfare issues which impact Wales, such as increasing numbers of stray and abandoned cats, low neutering rates and cruelty cases.

Educating youngsters about cat welfare is a priority for Cats Protection. In the academic year 2014-2015, our education volunteers delivered over 100 talks to schools and community groups across Wales, reaching an audience of more than 3,100 people. But there is much to be done to reach more people of all ages to improve knowledge of responsible pet ownership. To help us reach marginal audiences, Cats Protection would welcome joint working with the Welsh Government and professional bodies to gain accreditation for our education resources.

With a major review of the Welsh curriculum currently underway and the design and development phase taking place between 2015 and 2018<sup>24</sup>, there is no better time to ensure animal welfare is taught in schools. In his Successful Futures report published in February 2015, Professor Graham Donaldson recommended a new curriculum be based on four key purposes, including helping children become ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world. The Welsh Government has accepted this recommendation.<sup>25</sup> Responsible pet ownership means acting ethically and in an informed way. Cats Protection believes making animal welfare and the five welfare needs<sup>26</sup> compulsory within any new curriculum is essential to achieving this. Opportunities to include animal welfare in the six areas of learning and experience need to be found.

### Recommendations:

- inclusion of animal welfare in the Welsh curriculum and recognition of the preventative impact of teaching animal welfare and responsible pet ownership to schoolchildren
- Welsh Government collaboration with professional bodies to endorse voluntary sector education resources
- support by Assembly Members for Cats Protection's education activities locally



## Cats and housing providers: Welsh Government recognition of the needs of people with cats or other companion animals in rented housing and care homes to be allowed to keep pets.

More and more of us do not own the homes we live in. Many of us now have landlords or managers whether in privately rented, social or care home accommodation. Refusal by a landlord or care home to allow pets is one of the top five most common reasons cats are given up to Cats Protection for rehoming in Wales. And the problem is getting worse – in 2014 Cats Protection saw a nine per cent increase in the number of cats handed in for rehoming at our two adoption centres in Wales due to housing providers not accepting pets.

More needs to be done to encourage housing providers and landlords to have pet friendly policies and pet tenancy clauses. According to one of the major online guides to care homes, nursing homes and residential homes, currently only 38 per cent say they take "pets by arrangement".<sup>27</sup>

### Recommendations:

- Welsh Government to encourage more social housing associations and private landlords to allow tenants to keep companion animals
- Welsh Government to encourage and promote good practice whereby local authorities, social housing associations and private landlords have pet friendly tenancy clauses
- Welsh Government to work closely with animal welfare charities to encourage more care homes and retirement complexes to allow new residents to have cats



## Microchipping: making it compulsory to microchip owned cats.

Microchipping is the safe and permanent method of identification Cats Protection recommends for cats. Cats roam and a microchip increases the chances of a lost or injured cat being safely reunited with their owner. The Welsh Code of Practice for the Welfare of Cats confirms microchipping as “the preferred method of identification”.<sup>28</sup> Where local authorities scan cats that have sadly been the victim of a road accident then a chip can mean that a worried owner at least knows the fate of their pet.

But despite the benefits, 43 per cent of owned cats in Wales are not microchipped. This is higher than the UK-wide average of 38 per cent and means that around 289,000 cats in Wales are not microchipped.<sup>29</sup>

Cats Protection promotes microchipping and routinely microchips cats which come into our care if they do not already have one. In 2014 in Wales, we microchipped over 1,000 cats – approximately 40 per cent of the cats we rehomed.<sup>30</sup> When we take in a lost or stray cat without a microchip, it can be very difficult to trace the owner and sadly this may mean a cat that has a home ends up being rehomed needlessly.

Microchipping of cats is already compulsory in some countries, for example Spain and Belgium and parts of Australia. Microchipping of dogs is already compulsory in Northern Ireland and is due to be made compulsory in Wales,<sup>31</sup> Scotland<sup>32</sup> and England<sup>33</sup> in 2016.

### Recommendations:

- regulations to introduce compulsory microchipping of owned cats
- a Welsh Government led review of EU and non-EU best practice in countries where microchipping of owned cats is already compulsory
- collaboration with the Welsh Government and Members of the Welsh Assembly to promote the benefits of microchipping cats (including support for initiatives like National Microchipping Month every June)

### Garfield's story “Reunited”<sup>34</sup>

Garfield was missing for seven years before he was finally reunited with his owner thanks to his microchip. The ginger puss was presumed to be a stray when a concerned cat-lover handed him into our Bridgend Adoption Centre. A quick scan revealed he had a microchip and staff were able to reunite him with owner Julie Calder, of Rumney, Cardiff. Julie said: “I am over the moon to have Garfield back home after seven years. I never stopped thinking about him and wondering where he was.”



Photo: Sue Dobbs



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

Cats are very susceptible to poisoning and a number of household products can be fatal to them. Many consumers, who are also cat owners, aren't aware of the toxicity of products such as disinfectants and weed killers.

Labelling of toxic products has been governed by the European Classification of Labelling and Packaging regulation since 1 June 2015. This regulation is aimed at protecting people and the environment. We would like to go beyond what is legally required and ensure product labels warn consumers of a product's toxicity to animals.

A number of plants – lilies in particular – can also be fatal. Despite years of effort by Cats Protection and the Cat Group<sup>35</sup> many supermarkets still do not have accurately worded and prominent warnings on their lily bouquets. All parts of lilies, not just the pollen, are toxic to cats.

### Recommendations:

- Welsh Government working with antifreeze manufacturers to encourage them to voluntarily place warnings on products and plants highlighting their toxicity to animals as well as to people
- Welsh Government encouragement to manufacturers of toxic products (such as antifreeze) to develop non-toxic alternatives
- joint working with Welsh Government to raise public awareness about the toxicity of certain household products and plants

### Baby's story<sup>36</sup>

Four-year-old Baby became unwell shortly after nibbling at a bouquet containing lilies. Owner Samantha Bennet, of Porthcawl, South Wales, rushed her straight to the vet after checking online to see if the flowers may have made her ill. Baby stayed at the vets for two nights while fluids were administered to flush away the toxins that could have caused fatal kidney failure. Samantha said: "There was no warning on the label about lilies being poisonous to cats and if there was I wouldn't have let Baby anywhere near."



Photo: Sue Dobbs



## Banning snares: an outright ban on the use of snares on the basis they are inhumane and cruel.

Cats Protection supports a ban on the use of all types of snares across the UK on the basis that their use is inherently cruel and inhumane. Snares inflict considerable suffering and injury on animals. Cats are often the victims. Snares are commonly used by gamekeepers and other landowners to protect game birds from predation. The "target species" are generally foxes, and to a lesser extent, rabbits.

Snares are indiscriminate – a UK Government report on snaring in England and Wales found that almost 30 per cent of rabbit snare users had caught a domestic cat in a snare at some point.<sup>37</sup> Statistics gathered in 2015 showed that 71 per cent of reported cases where animals were caught in snares involved non-target species. Of these, nearly a quarter (24 per cent) were cats.<sup>38</sup> There are alternatives to snares available to land managers for both rabbit and fox control, for example, the use of various types of fencing (electric, buried and underground).

Cats Protection welcomes the 2015 Welsh Government's code of best practice on the use of snares in fox control.<sup>39</sup> However, we believe only an outright ban will prevent pain and suffering being inflicted upon cats and other animals caught in snares.

### Recommendations:

- introduction in Wales of an outright ban on the use of snares on the basis that they are inhumane and cruel and inflict suffering, injury or death on cats and other animals caught in them

"A ginger cat has been found dead in a snare in Powys, prompting an RSPCA appeal for information. Dog walkers found the young male cat at Brecon Cemetery and the charity said there were obvious signs of a struggle."

- BBC Report October 2015<sup>40</sup>



## Cats and their benefit to health and wellbeing: Welsh Government recognition of the benefits which cats and other companion animals bring to health and personal wellbeing.

**Ian's story<sup>45</sup> – loyal pet “Mr Chips”**  
After being diagnosed with a complex medical condition, Ian continues to endure risky operations, affecting both his physical and mental health, and leaving him at times feeling suicidal. Throughout it all has been his loving and loyal pet cat Mr Chips, who Ian says continues to keep him going through times of despair. Ian from Llandudno said: “The past few years have been very difficult, I have times when I’m feeling really suicidal because things are difficult and I find it very hard to carry on. But Mr Chips has been the one to keep me going and gives me a reason to carry on.”



## To find out more about the Manifesto for Cats: Wales and our advocacy work:

Visit:  
[www.cats.org.uk/manifestowales](http://www.cats.org.uk/manifestowales)  
Follow:  
@CPadvocacy on Twitter  
To contact us:  
[advocacy@cats.org.uk](mailto:advocacy@cats.org.uk)  
Advocacy Manager,  
National Cat Centre, Chelwood Gate,  
Haywards Heath, RH17 7TT

Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SC037711 (Scotland). COM\_961. 13/01/16

Cats can help alleviate social isolation and make particularly suitable companion animals for people with chronic health problems, limited mobility or who are housebound. Cats have also been proven to help reduce the risks of physical conditions such as cardiovascular disease.<sup>41</sup>

The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 places great emphasis on supporting individual wellbeing, including physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing.<sup>42</sup> It also directs local authorities to provide or arrange services which can prevent or delay the development of a person's need for care and support.<sup>43</sup>

Cats Protection believes it is vital that the role cats and other companion pets play in supporting individual wellbeing is not forgotten as the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act is applied by practitioners. We'd encourage imaginative initiatives such as Companion Animal Support Programmes which already happen in Australia.<sup>44</sup>

### Recommendations:

- clarification from the Welsh Government that cats and other pets can be vital to an individual's wellbeing and that health professionals and local government social services should take this into consideration when assessing a person's care needs under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) 2014 Act
- formal communication by the Welsh Government with local government and health professionals to encourage consideration of the value of pets to wellbeing within care assessments
- Welsh Government monitoring to ensure that assessments and personalised care plans include consideration of any companion animals that form part of the individual's household and that benefit wellbeing



Photo: Ajar Photographics

### References:

1 PDSA Animal Wellbeing Report (PAW) 2015 2 Pers. comm PDSA - source data PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report 2015 3 <https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/2014-15> 4 Figures taken October 2015 from Cats Protection's national and Welsh Facebook pages 5 [https://d25d25065fb945.cloudfront.net/cumulus\\_uploads/document/50ymvzeao/YG-Archive-140201-WASP.pdf](https://d25d25065fb945.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/50ymvzeao/YG-Archive-140201-WASP.pdf) 6 <https://stats.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/National-Survey-for-Wales/2014-15> 7 Cats Protection statistics 2014 8 Pers. comm PDSA - source data PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report 2015 9 The Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 10 <http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/eurogroup-drags-pet-breeding-and-sale-out-of-the-shadows-as-uspca-shines-a-light-on-puppy-farms/> 11 Pers. Correspondence 2015 12 Cats Protection logging of press reports and reports made directly to Cats Protection via email, letter, phone or social media between 1 July 2014-30 June 2015. 13 Cats Protection logging of press reports and reports made directly to Cats Protection via email, letter, phone or social media from July 2014-December 2014 and from January 2015-June 2015. 14 [www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/13539758.Pet\\_owners\\_urged\\_to\\_be\\_vigilant\\_after\\_two\\_cats\\_shot\\_with\\_air\\_gun/?ref=mr&lp=16](http://www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/13539758.Pet_owners_urged_to_be_vigilant_after_two_cats_shot_with_air_gun/?ref=mr&lp=16) and pers. correspondence 2015 15 [www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/13539758.Pet\\_owners\\_urged\\_to\\_be\\_vigilant\\_after\\_two\\_cats\\_shot\\_with\\_air\\_gun/?ref=mr&lp=16](http://www.tivysideadvertiser.co.uk/news/13539758.Pet_owners_urged_to_be_vigilant_after_two_cats_shot_with_air_gun/?ref=mr&lp=16) and pers. Correspondence 2015 16 <http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-question/Commons/2015-03-12/227485/> 17 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-24773304> 18 <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/rabies-in-france-may-2015> 19 Cats Protection logging of press reports and reports made directly to Cats Protection via email, letter, phone or social media from 1 January 2015 to 30 June 2015. 20 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/12/contents/enacted/data.htm> 21 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/373429/dog-ownership-practitioners-manual-201411.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/373429/dog-ownership-practitioners-manual-201411.pdf) 22 As defined in the Animal Welfare Act (2006) 23 Personal correspondence, 2015 24 <http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schools/home/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/?lang=en> 25 [http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150303-great-debate-summary-en.pdf?utm\\_source=great-debate&utm\\_medium=summary&utm\\_campaign=dfes](http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/150303-great-debate-summary-en.pdf?utm_source=great-debate&utm_medium=summary&utm_campaign=dfes) 26 The Animal Welfare Act Section 9 2006 introduced a requirement for all people responsible for an animal to ensure that its welfare needs are met. They are: the need for a suitable environment, a suitable diet, the need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns, the need to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, the need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury, and disease 27 [www.carehome.co.uk](http://www.carehome.co.uk) 423 “pets by arrangement” of 1101 registered (August 2015) 28 <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/pets/codesofpractice/081205codeofpraco/cats/?lang=en> 29 Pers. comm PDSA - source data PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report 2015 30 Cats Protection statistics 2014 31 <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/microchippingdogs/?lang=en> and <http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2015/microchippingdogsinwales/?lang=en> 32 <http://news.scotland.gov.uk/News/Chip-in-16dd.aspx> 33 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2010-to-2015-government-policy-animal-welfare/2010-to-2015-government-policy-animal-welfare> 34 Cats Protection Media Office and personal correspondence 2015 35 [www.thecatgroup.org.uk](http://www.thecatgroup.org.uk) 36 Vet report to Cats Protection and personal correspondence 2015 37 Defra (2012) Determining the extent and use and humaneness of snares in England and Wales 38 [http://www.onekind.org/useful\\_links/media/CharityrenewscallstobansnaresaheadofGloriousTwelfth/](http://www.onekind.org/useful_links/media/CharityrenewscallstobansnaresaheadofGloriousTwelfth/) and OneKind personal correspondence. 39 <http://www.nfu-cymru.org.uk/code-of-practice-on-snares/> 40 <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-mid-wales-34553486> 41 Qureshi A I, Memon MZ, Vazquez G et al. (2009) Cat ownership and the risk of fatal cardiovascular diseases, results from the second national health and nutritional examination study mortality follow-up study. Journal of vascular and interventional neurology. Vol 2 No 1 Jan 2009 p132-13. 42 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/section/2> 43 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/anaw/2014/4/section/15> 44 <http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Services/Older-persons-services/home-and-support-services/Companion-Animal-Support-Program/> 45 Cats Protection Media Office