



The Time is Meow

Compulsory microchipping of pet cats

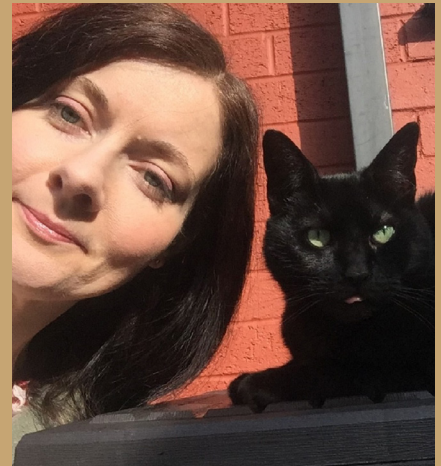
Why it matters

Over 2.5 million owned cats in England (27%) are still not microchipped¹, leaving them without any permanent form of identification. Cats are known for their inquisitive nature and can become lost or injured – even those that live indoors can slip outside unnoticed. It is heart-breaking for an owner when a cat goes missing, and without a microchip they may never be reunited or informed if their pet is killed on the roads.

What the government can do

Introduce regulations to make microchipping of pet cats compulsory in England to give cats the same level of protection as their canine counterparts.

Awareness-raising on its own is not enough, and regulation is the most effective way to drive up the number of pet cats that are microchipped. We know it works – since compulsory microchipping was introduced for dogs in 2016, over 90% of pet dogs are now microchipped, while the UK figure for pet cats is 71%¹.



Holly had been missing for 20 months when she was picked up as a stray by Cats Protection's Atherton & Wigan Branch. Because she was microchipped, she was swiftly reunited with her delighted owner Ruth.

8 out of 10 stray cats coming into Cats Protection's centres were not microchipped. This means the charity may be rehoming cats that actually have owners but the owner sadly can't be identified².

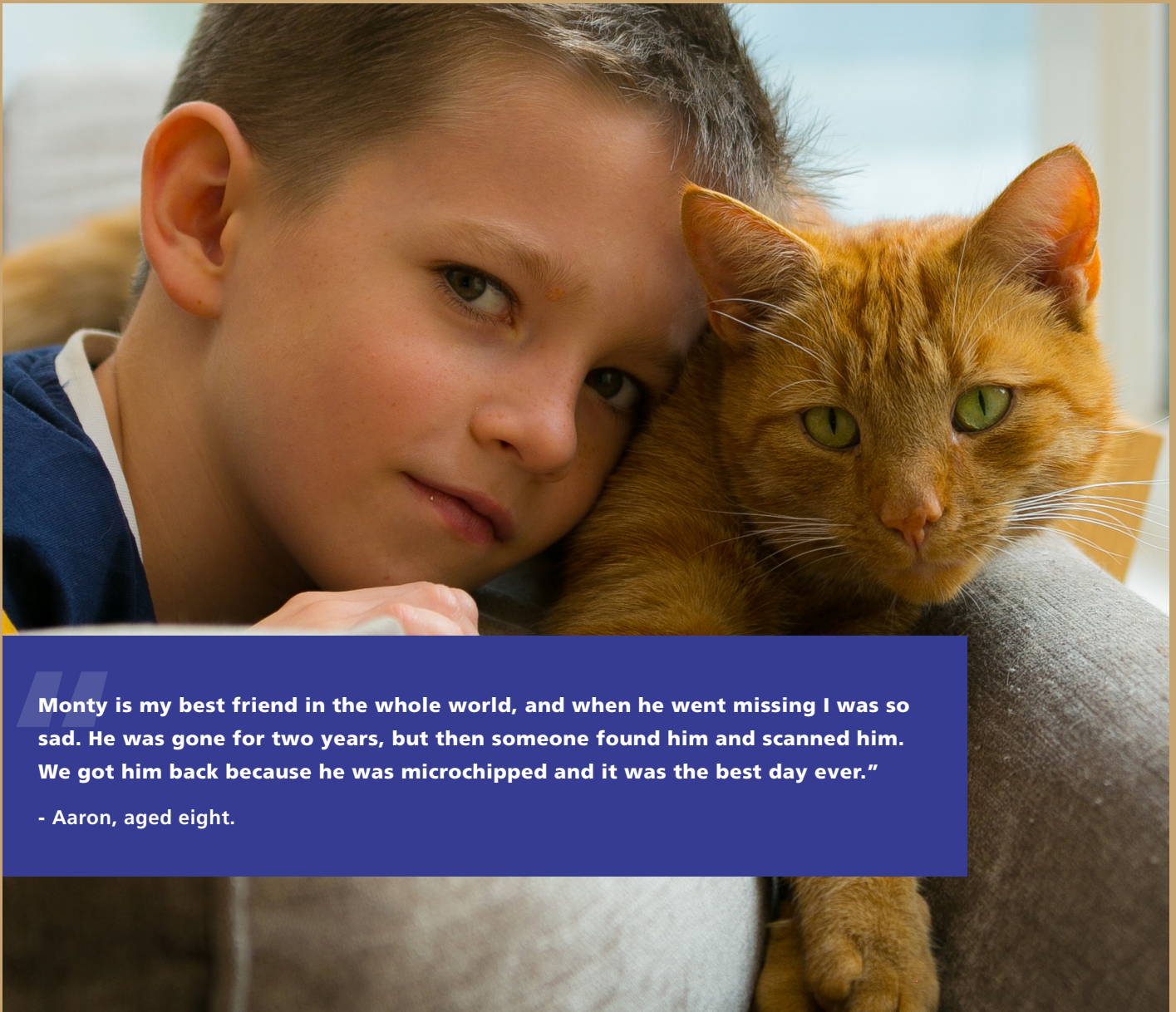


Turn over to read Monty and Aaron's story



The benefits

1. Increase the number of lost cats reunited with their owners.
2. Prevent much-loved pet cats being needlessly rehomed because an owner can't be traced.
3. Enable vets and animal rescuers to quickly alert an owner if their cat is injured.
4. Simplify access of medical records for vets.
5. Enable owners to be informed of a fatal traffic accident if their cat is picked up by a local authority.
6. Help resolve instances of cat theft and ownership disputes.



Monty is my best friend in the whole world, and when he went missing I was so sad. He was gone for two years, but then someone found him and scanned him. We got him back because he was microchipped and it was the best day ever."

- Aaron, aged eight.

For further information about our advocacy work visit
www.cats.org.uk/timeismeow or email advocacy@cats.org.uk

1 PDSA Animal Wellbeing (PAW) Report 2019

2 Cats Protection data 2019 – of cats coming into their centres in England.