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Should all dogs have to be licensed by law?

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Animal lovers are calling for all dogs to be licensed. Picture: Andrew Forsyth/RSPCA

All dogs should be compulsorily licensed, claims the RSPCA - because micro-chipping isn't working.



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Owners became legally-obliged to have their pets chipped on April 6, 2016.

But one year on, animal lovers now say the law doesn't go far enough to protect pets from abuse or neglect.

RSPCA dog welfare expert Sam Gaines said: "Compulsory microchipping was a move welcomed by the RSPCA ensuring lost, stolen or missing dogs can be reunited with their rightful owners more quickly which is obviously wonderful news.

"However, there are issues around people keeping their details updated and unfortunately, we are finding animals coming to our attention which are not microchipped. In some cases these are animals which have been abandoned but in others, owners are generally treating their dogs badly and microchipping hasn't been considered. It is also possible that, due to issues around enforcement, some people believe that the likelihood of getting caught is very low so don't get them chipped.

"While we welcome compulsory microchipping and it is undoubtedly helping reunite dogs and owners, compliance and enforcement issues surrounding the compulsory microchipping legislation remain.

"There are also many issues which compulsory microchipping does not address and that is one reason why the RSPCA maintains its view that dog licensing is the right way to go."

The society believes a dog licensing scheme has the potential to generate money which could be used to help improve dog welfare and tackle the issues around irresponsible dog ownership.

It says there needs to be "a joined up strategy" to manage social and animal problems associated with dog ownership, underpinned and funded by a new dog licence scheme.

This would mean that dog owners would contribute to costs derived from dogs, funds which are currently lacking from central and local Government.

It could also fund resources for a whole host of issues including dog health and welfare, antisocial behaviour involving dogs, dog bite incidents, stray dogs, canine population issues and risks to human health.

The RSPCA says such schemes already operate successfully in other countries, such as Canada.

Keywords: Canada



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7 comments

There is already a Law requiring dogs to be collar tagged, The Control of Dogs Order from 1992 . Outdated as it requires a full address visible on the tag , and many dog owners are unhappy about their addresses being seen with the dog stealing going on. Compulsory chipping though is not included in that law and the chip does not mean ownership ..the collar and tag do!

Pinkydibs Thursday, April 6, 2017

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All dogs should be registered and changes of ownership or address should be notified, but with money grabbing institutions the they are today, that's probably all this is about, making money. If this is made compulsory many dogs will end up abandoned or dumped on recue centres for them to make money from with thier ridiculous charges, even dog rescue centres are only interested in making money.

Althalus Thursday, April 6, 2017

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Yes ..All dogs must be registered and chipped, but who would enforce it??There are few wardens ,the cost of policing it would be astronomical,they should all have insurance,,But most of all, they should have owners that are responsible, all good dog owners would chip their animals, they should all be registered at birth..People are so irresponsible today,dont give a hoot about society.Are the irresponsible owners going to comply with the rules?No,they are not...All hounds should have a collar, name address on it and ,chipped,,simple

yarco boy Thursday, April 6, 2017

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That should read thirty seven and a half pence

Essex Girl Wednesday, April 5, 2017

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Dog licences were done away with in 1987 and they were 37 12p at the time they finished. The money raised went to local authorities.

Essex Girl Wednesday, April 5, 2017

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It would be just another law, abided by, by those that don't need legislating, and ignored by those that do. It would then be found to be unworkable, unenforceable and would need annual increases to just fund the collection. The R.S.P.C.A., or the Kennel Club, would probably offer to do it, with a view to maximising profits, rather like the microchipping fiasco.....and yes, my dogs are all microchipped, and have been for years now.

Phil Delf Wednesday, April 5, 2017

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yes they should, and some kind of compulsory third party insurance as well, and yes i do own a dog.

ted Wednesday, April 5, 2017

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