



Dear ,

When Katherine's cat Bitten went missing in August 2005, although she did everything she could to try to find him, she assumed that Bitten would be scanned as soon as he was taken to a vet. If he had been stolen and sold on, or if someone had got him from an animal rescue centre that had not scanned him or had unthinkingly simply adopted him, that microchip would be her safety net.

She was appalled to discover that even her own vet did not do this.

Both the British Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons recommend as good practice the policy of scanning every microchippable animal on its first visit. Yet a great many vets do not adopt this policy.

Katherine changed her vet to one who did follow BSAVA and RCVS good practice. Her new vet says that he can't see the problem! As long as scanning is incorporated into the routine of the initial consultation, no potential new client has ever been offended and many – like Katherine – welcome it; the problem of client confidentiality can now be passed on to Petlog.

I am writing to you to ascertain whether your practice has adopted the policy of scanning all microchippable animals on their first visit.

If it does, then I would ask you please to write to Katherine's organisation Action on Missing Cats (email address below) and let them know. If you felt able to make a statement describing your own operation of the policy which they could use on their website, it might help to convince other vets.

If it does not, I would ask you to consider it seriously, and also to consider scanning all the microchippable animals already on your books at their next visit. Like Katherine, I had always assumed that my pet's microchip would be scanned by any vet he was taken to, and was deeply disturbed to learn that this is not so.

Signed: Print your name:
Address:

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