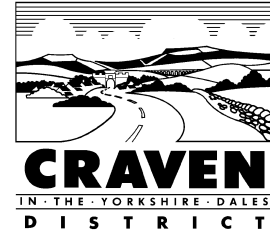


Policy Committee – 12 April 2016

THE MICROCHIPPING OF DOGS (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2015



Report of the Director of Services

Ward(s) affected: All

1. **Purpose of Report** – To enable the Council as the local authority to discharge its functions under the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 (the Regulations).
2. **Recommendations** – Members are recommended to:
 - 2.1 Note the report
 - 2.2 Grant delegated authority to the Director of Services to
 - i. authorise the taking of enforcement or other legal action including prosecution in relation to the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015
 - ii. authorise in writing “Authorised Persons”
3. **Report**
 - 3.1 The Regulations provide that from April 2016 it will be compulsory for all dogs, over the age of 8 weeks, to be microchipped and for the details of the dogs keeper to be kept up to date on the microchip database. The Council is the enforcing authority under the Regulations in relation to ensuring that dogs are microchipped. The Council does not hold the microchip database.
 - 3.2 A microchip is a radio-frequency identification transponder covered in bio-glass no larger than a grain of rice. When a microchip scanner is passed over the skin of a dog, the implanted microchip emits a radio frequency signal, the microchip’s unique ID code is then displayed on the scanner.
 - 3.3 Microchipping enables Local Authorities and charities trace the registered keeper of the dogs quickly and efficiently. It is estimated that lost and stray dogs cost Local Authorities and charities in excess of £32 million pounds every year.
 - 3.4 There are a number of exemptions for microchipping dogs. The first exemption applies where a veterinarian has certified the dog as a working dog and docked its tail in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006. In such cases the time limit for the dog to be microchipped and details recorded with a database is extended to 12 weeks. The dog can be passed on to a new keeper once it has been

microchipped. The second exemption applies where a veterinarian certifies that a dog should not be microchipped because it could adversely affect its health. In such cases a vet would have to certify that this was the case and state when the exemption expired. The dog would then need to be microchipped on the expiry of the date stated on the certificate, unless a veterinarian issued a further exemption certificate because of ongoing concerns with the dog's health.

- 3.5 If a dog isn't microchipped the Local Authority can serve a notice on the keeper of the dog requiring that they get the dog microchipped within 21 days. It is an offence to fail to comply with such a notice. Where a notice is not complied with the Council can also seize the dog, implant a microchip and recover the costs of doing so from the keeper of the dog.
- 3.6 Where details are not kept up to date the Council can serve a notice on the keeper of the dog requiring that they update the database within 21 days. It is an offence to fail to comply with the notice. It is also an offence to transfer a dog that has not been microchipped to a new keeper.
- 3.7 The Council is required to appoint "Authorised Persons" to undertake enforcement action under the Regulations. Delegated Authority to the Director of Services to authorise "Authorised Persons" is requested in order that the Director of Services can authorise a sufficient number of competent officers at any time.

4. **Implications**

- 4.1 **Financial Implications** – There are no significant implications arising from this report as the costs have been accounted for within existing budgets.
- 4.2 **Legal Implications** – These are covered within the body of the report.
- 4.3 **Contribution to Corporate Priorities** – The proposal directly contributes to the priorities of a 'Greener Craven' and 'Working with Communities'.
- 4.4 **Risk Management** – There are no strategic risk management issues arising from the report.
- 4.5 **Equality Impact Assessment** - The Council's Equality Impact Assessment Procedure has been followed. The proposed policy does not have the potential to cause negative impact or discriminate against the protected characteristic groups in the community based on Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Marriage and civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion and belief, Sex, Sexual orientation,
5. **Consultations with Others** – Director of Services, Finance Manager, Legal Services Manager
6. **Access to Information : Background Documents** – None.

7. **Author of the Report** –

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Note : Members are invited to contact the author in advance of the meeting with any detailed queries or questions.

8. **Appendices** – None