



RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION

SUBJECT: Animal Warden Service – Introducing a charge for dog micro-chipping following the requirement to make it compulsory from the 6th April 2016.

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to introduce a £10 charge for the Animal Warden Service to undertake dog micro-chipping from the 1st June 2016.

DELEGATED DECISION (Date):

To introduce a charge of £10 to enable the Animal Warden Service to provide a micro-chipping service for dogs from the 1st June 2016.


Chief Officer Signature

GIOVANNI MANCINI
Print Name

7th June 2016
Date

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

Jay Losser

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

6/6/16.

DATE

PJ Luce

OFFICER CONSULTEE SIGNATURE

6/6/16.

DATE

| | |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|
| Directorate: | Public Health and Protection |
| Contact Name: | Neil Pilliner |
| Designation: | Pollution and Public Health Manager, |
| Tel.No. | 01443 425519 |

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016/17

**REPORT TO ACCOMPANY DECISION OF
GROUP DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY & CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Part 1
(Non-Confidential)

Introducing a charge for dog micro-chipping undertaken by the Animal Warden Service from 1st June 2016

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to introduce a £10 charge for the Animal Warden Service to undertake micro-chipping of dogs from the 1st June 2016. The £10 charge would also be added to the return fee for a stray dog which would be micro-chipped prior to return to the dog owner.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation this report, as described below, has been prepared to accompany the decision of the Group Director of Community and Children's Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To introduce a charge of £10 to enable the Animal Warden Service to provide a micro-chipping service for dogs from the 1st June 2016.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Dealing with stray dogs is the core activity of the Animal Warden Service. The Council currently operates its own Animal Control Shelter at Dinas Depot in Porth and it has the capacity for 36 dogs. On average in 2015-16 the Council seized 40 dogs per month and approximately 20% of the dogs seized were found to be micro-chipped which enabled the dog to be returned directly to the owner. As an incentive to dog-owning residents, and to encourage more responsible dog ownership, the Animal Warden service has offered free micro-chipping for dogs.
- 3.2 Micro-chipping is an easy and painless process in which a small chip, about the size of a grain of rice, is inserted just under the skin of the dog, at the scruff of the neck. The chip electronically records details of the pet, such as its name, breed and age, as well as contact details for the owners. When a dog is found, it can be scanned by an Animal Warden, vet or rescue

organisation and arrangements made for the dog to be re-united with its owner, as long as it is chipped and the contact details are kept up to date.

- 3.3 The Micro-chipping of Dogs (Wales) Regulations 2015 came into force on 6th April 2016. This means that all owners of dogs over 8 weeks old are legally required to have their dog micro-chipped and the keepers details registered on an approved database. If a dog is not micro-chipped, the Council can take formal action to require the keeper to have the dog micro-chipped.
- 3.4 To date many dog owners have taken advantage of the Council's free micro-chipping service, which was introduced in an attempt to encourage responsible dog ownership and speed up the process of returning stray dogs. This has resulted in over 5000 dogs being micro-chipped for free in the last 10 years.
- 3.5 As anticipated, the demand for micro-chipping has risen dramatically since it became a legal requirement, with over 500 dogs being micro-chipped since the 6th April 2016. It would be not be sustainable to maintain the current free service, without impacting on the Animal Warden's core duty of dealing with stray dogs in RCT. The micro-chipping fee of £10 has been kept as low as possible and compares favourably with other private Veterinary Clinics, which range from £15 to £40.
- 3.6 There are various costs associated with micro-chipping and the introduction of a £10 fee from the 1st June 2016 would cover the cost of the microchip plus staff and administrative costs. In addition, on collecting their stray dog from the Animal Pound from the 1st June 2016, the dog will be micro-chipped and the owner will be required to pay an additional £10 charge as part of the return fee. This will be of benefit, as in future the dog could be returned directly to their owner without the need to be kenneled.

4. Conclusions

- 4.1 Micro-chipping dogs will not only reunite people with their lost or stolen pets, but also help to tackle the problem of strays roaming the streets and relieve the burden placed on animal charities and local authorities. It is an essential part of responsible dog ownership and it is hoped the new legislation will encourage increased responsibility, alongside the Council's continued work to combat dog fouling, noise nuisance and public health issues from irresponsible dog ownership.
- 4.2 The £10 fee will cover the costs of the Animal Warden Team to continue to provide a micro-chipping service for residents in Rhondda Cynon Taf from the 1st June 2016.