



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
United Kingdom

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 28th October 2021

Dear Stakeholder,

Amendment of the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015

We are inviting your organisation to comment on a proposed change to regulation 1 of the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015¹ ('the 2015 Regulations').

I. These Regulations—

...;

(c) cease to have effect at the end of the period of seven years beginning with the day on which they come into force;

Paragraph (c) of that regulation is a sunset clause, which means that the 2015 Regulations will cease to have effect from 24 February 2022. The rationale for a proposed amendment to this clause is outlined below. As a key stakeholder, this letter gives you an opportunity to raise any impacts of the proposed amendment on your business or organisation.

Review and revision of the Microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015

We are grateful for the extensive stakeholder input we have received during our recent Post Implementation Review (PIR) of the 2015 Regulations. The report is now passing through regulatory review processes and will be published once this has concluded. We expect this to be later this year.

The review identified a number of areas in which the 2015 Regulations would benefit from being updated. The publication of the PIR report will therefore be followed by a public consultation on the proposed changes. We expect this consultation to be carried out over the winter. The outcome will inform updates to the 2015 Regulations, enabling the introduction of revised Regulations later in 2022 after further engagement with stakeholders.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2015/9780111125243>

If the sunset clause is not extended, the 2015 Regulations will cease to have effect from 24th February 2022, before the revised Regulations are in place. This means that the requirements placed on keepers, database operators and others named in the 2015 Regulations will no longer apply from that date. Amending the sunset clause on a time-limited basis will prevent such a gap and to allow sufficient time to ensure that the outcomes of the PIR and public consultation can be carefully considered and incorporated into the revised Regulations before the 2015 Regulations cease to have effect. We anticipate that the revised Regulations will be introduced in 2022 but are proposing a two year extension to allow for unexpected delays.

Question on which we seek your view

We propose to extend the time period after which the 2015 Regulations cease to be in effect from seven to nine years. This means that the 2015 Regulations will remain in force for a further two years, until 23rd February 2024.

Do you agree with this proposal, and will it have an impact on your business or organisation?

How to respond

Please submit your response to caws.consultations@defra.gov.uk before **14 November 2021**.

Yours sincerely,

**Companion Animal Welfare Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**