

**Cross Party Group for Animal Welfare  
60<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Minutes**

**12<sup>th</sup> May 2015, Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament**

**Present**

Christine Grahame, MSP  
Claudia Beamish, MSP

Colin Shedden, BASC Scotland  
Liam McDougal, BBC  
Sam Poling, BBC  
Becky Thwaites, Blue Cross  
Brian Hosie, BVA  
George Leslie, Canine Concern Scotland  
Allan Sim, Canine Concern Scotland  
Lorraine Curkie, CATSCO  
Margaret McGillon, CATSCO  
Margaret Donnellan, Dogs Trust  
Fraser Henderson, Glo Wild  
Peter MacDonald, Horse Rescue Scotland  
Charles Everitt, NWCU  
Louise Robertson, OneKind  
Libby Anderson, OneKind

Denis Hearsom, Perth and Kinross Council  
Karen Wilkie, Perth and Kinross Council  
Diane Bain, Rabbits Require Rights  
Karen Gray, Rabbits Require Rights  
Sheila Thomson, Scottish Kennel Club  
Alex Hogg, SGA  
Mike Flynn, SSPCA  
Mark Rafferty, SSPCA  
David Woolfries, Stirling Council  
Dr Patricia Gail Saluja, University of  
Aberdeen, School of Law  
Jean Fairlie, Weimeraner Rescue  
Laura MacLeod, West Lothian Council  
John Burns, World Horse Welfare  
Patricia Neeson, Observer

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. Apologies**

**Received from:**

Alison Johnston MSP  
Cara Hilton MSP

John Robins, Animal Concern Advice Line  
Brian Robinson, Association of British Riding Schools  
John Bruce, BDS  
Helene Mauchlen, BHS  
Tracy Shiells, Cats Protection  
Mauvis Gore, Marine Concern International  
John Brady, OneKind  
Jamie Stewart, SCA  
Beverley Williams, Scottish Government  
Dick Morrison, Scottish Kennel Club  
Adam Reed, University of St Andrews  
Tricia Colville, VSAVA  
Edna Elliot Mcall, Observer

### **3. Changes to secretariat and membership fees**

- 3.1 The group agreed to the new secretariat.
- 3.2 The group agreed to do away with membership fees.

### **4. Minutes of previous meeting**

- 4.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to.

### **5. Matters arising**

- 5.1 MSPs present agreed to lodge a motion on the use of Electric Shock Collars and mark it for Members' Business, so the matter could be debated in Parliament.

Christine reported that the members debate taken place and had been a success. She had also had a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary.

#### **AP Christine agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary to see how the issue was progressing**

- 5.2 Christine said she would write to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice to ask him to consider whether or not sentences available in animal cruelty cases were appropriate.

Christine reported that this will be done in the next couple of weeks.

### **6. The Dog Factory**

- 6.1 Sam Poling and Liam McDougall gave a very interesting talk on the BBC's investigative documentary on both the legal and illegal aspects of puppy farming.
- 6.2 They thanked the SSPCA for their extensive assistance and expertise on the issue.
- 6.3 It was raised that vets who vaccinate trafficked and farmed puppies are legitimising the practice and should be reported to their professional body.
- 6.4 It was raised that the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 is dated and not fit for purpose and very restrictive for dog wardens.

#### **AP Christine agreed to investigate whether it would be possible for the Cross Party Group to submit a petition for the Scottish Government to review the Breeding of Dogs Act. It was agreed that SSPCA, Dogs Trust and Canine Concern would be the appropriate groups to be named on the petition.**

- 6.5 It was raised that new guidance has been produced in England and Wales which is very useful for Local Councils and this could be replicated in Scotland.
- 6.6 It was raised that the Scottish Government had not acted to update the secondary legislation following from the Animal Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

#### **AP Christine agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary to see if the Scottish Government could progress the issue.**

## **7. Exotic pet vending**

7.1 Libby Anderson from OneKind gave an informative talk on exotic pet vending.

7.2 It was raised that there were invasive species being brought into the country and sometimes released that could have a detrimental impact on Scotland's native wildlife.

7.3 It was raised that there was a 'positive list' approach in the Netherlands that could be adopted in Scotland.

7.4 OneKind has secured a commitment from the Cabinet Secretary to review exotic pet vending.

## **8 Any other business**

8.1 It was raised that compulsory microchipping is to be introduced in April next year. The members wanted to know what legislative vehicle would be used for this and how they could get involved.

**AP Claudia Beamish agreed to speak to the clerks on the Rural Affairs, Environment and Climate Change Committee, of which she is a member, to request the legislative timetable for the secretary to circulate to the group.**

8.2 Several themes were suggested for the next meeting including 'Horse Welfare' and 'Microchipping'. The group were advised to email the secretary with any suggestions.

## **9. Date of next meeting**

9.1 The group were advised that the next meeting would take place in September and that it would be the AGM.