

**Cross Party Group for Animal Welfare
61st Meeting
Minutes**

29th September 2015, Committee Room 6, Scottish Parliament

Present

Christine Grahame, MSP (CG)
Claudia Beamish, MSP (CB)
Alison Johnstone MSP
Jamie McGrigor MSP

Colin Shedden, BASC Scotland
Gurudeo Saluja
Phil Burns, Scottish Government
Nicolle Hamilton, BASC Scotland
Allan Sim, Canine Concern Scotland
Fraser Henderson, Glo Wild
Libby Anderson, OneKind
Sue Kilby BHS
Jacqui Cuff, Cats Protection
Howard Bridges, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
Lindsay Jardine, Edinburgh Dog and Cat home
Jane Stirling SRUC
Ed Hayes, Kennel Club

Diane Bain, Rabbits Require Rights
Karen Gray, Rabbits Require Rights
Mike Flynn, SSPCA
Dr Patricia Gail Saluja, University of Aberdeen,
School of Law
Laura MacLeod, West Lothian Council
John Burns, World Horse Welfare
John Bruce, BDS
Jamie Stewart, SCA
Kirsten Anderson, Network for Animals
Paul Herring Network for Animals
Harry Huyton Onekind

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Apologies received from:

Cara Hilton MSP
John Scott MSP

Lorraine Currie, CATSCO
Peter MacDonald, Horse Rescue Scotland
George Leslie, Canine Concern Scotland
Alex Hogg, SGA
Charles Everitt, NWCU
John Robins, Animal Concern Advice Line
Brian Robinson, Association of British Riding Schools
Helene Mauchlen, BHS
Tracy Shiells, Cats Protection
Mauvis Gore, Marine Concern International
Beverley Williams, Scottish Government
Adam Reed, University of St Andrews
Tricia Colville, VSAVA
Edna Elliot McCall, Observer
Patricia Neeson, Observer
Lorraine Currie, Catsco
Morton Houston, South Ayrshire Council
Brian Hosie SAC Consulting
Elizabeth Ormerod
Denis Hearsom, Perth and Kinross Council
Becky Thwaites, Blue Cross

2. Minutes of previous AGM

2.1 The minutes of the previous AGM were agreed to.

3. Draft Annual Return

3.1 The draft annual return would be circulated to the group after the meeting for comment.

4. Officer elections

4.1 Convenor

Christine Graham MSP, nominated by Claudia Beamish MSP and seconded by Alison Johnstone MSP, elected unanimously

4.2 Vice Conveners

Cara Hilton MSP, nominated by Christine Grahame and seconded by Alison Johnstone MSP, elected unanimously

Alison Johnstone MSP, nominated by Claudia Beamish and seconded by Christine Grahame, elected unanimously

4.3 Secretary

Nicolle Hamilton, nominated by Jamie Stewart and seconded by Fraser Henderson, elected unanimously

5. Resolution

5.1 That Membership of the Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare shall be open to all eligible MSPs and to (A) other interested individuals and organisations, subject to the agreement of the Group, and shall confer the right to receive information, announcements, agendas and minutes of Group meetings, to attend and speak at Group meetings and to take part in votes and that these individuals and organisations shall be listed as Members in the Group's Annual Return; and that (B) any other interested individuals and organisations may receive all information, announcements, agendas and minutes of Group meetings, attend and speak at Group meetings, subject to the agreement of the Group, but shall not take part in votes and shall not be listed as Members in the Group's Annual Return; and that any individual or organisation in current Membership of the Group on 29 September 2015 may be included in either category A (Members) or category B (Observers), according to their preference, without requiring to seek the agreement of the Group.

Proposed by Christine Grahame MSP and seconded by Fraser Henderson, passed unanimously

6. Petition Breeding of Dogs Act

6.1 The secretary explained that there had been little to no progress due to members from petitioning organisations leaving and going on maternity leave.

6.2 CG proposed that a sub-group should be set up to progress the petition but that the group should in the first instance approach the Cabinet Secretary. CG would be happy to attend a sub-group meeting if required.

AP The secretary to coordinate a meeting of the sub-group with interested parties.

7. Open discussion on future topics

7.1 Fraser Henderson proposed the British Divers Marine Life Rescue to give a presentation on cetacean entanglement. CB raised the issue of the closure of a post mortem centre for marine animals in Inverness due to funding. Shooting seals under licence was also raised along with interpretation of 'last resort' by Marine Scotland, in association with seal licensing. CG suggested that the next meeting was 'marine themed' to address these issues and the group agreed.

AP Secretary to invite the British Divers Marine Life Rescue and Marine Scotland to attend the next meeting.

7.2 It was proposed that at the spring meeting representatives from each of the parties could put forward their animal welfare issues from their manifestos to the group. It was also proposed that the group look at the forthcoming Protection of Wild Mammals Act review.

8 Any other business

8.1 CB raised the Sun Campaign calling for an automatic life ban on keeping pets for owners convicted of cruelty. LA said Sheriffs should be receiving training on animal cruelty cases and that in every severe cruelty case they should consider a lifetime ban.

AP The group agreed to write to the Judicial training board on the issue of permanent disqualification orders

8.2 There was a discussion about pet shops continually failing to adhere to basic needs of animals in their care.

AP CG to write to the Chief Executives of the main shops asking if the basic needs of their animals are being met, if their staff training is up to date and directing them to best practice by the Pet Care Trust. The secretary is to write to officers dealing with licensing in the 32 Local Authorities making them aware of this letter.

8.3 It was raised that in England the Transport Minister had mandated Local Authorities and the Highways Agency to scan all domestic pet road traffic fatalities so owners could be informed. This would also have the benefit of encouraging cat owners to microchip their animals.

AP CG to write to Transport Minister on requirement to scan

8.4 Progress on banning shock collars for dogs was raised

AP CG to ask Minister for update on progress

8.5 Outstanding from previous meeting. The Scottish Government had not acted to update the secondary legislation following from the Animal Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006

AP CG to write to Cabinet Secretary to see if the Scottish Government could progress the issue

9. Date of next meeting

9.1 The group were advised that the next meeting would take place in December and that there would be wine and mince pies provided from the residual subscriptions. (Subscriptions to the group are no longer required.)