

Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare Meeting

6.00pm Tuesday 5th June 2018

AGM

Present:

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP (Convener)

Alison Johnstone MSP

Associate Members

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| Adam Reed | University of St Andrews |
| Alison Craig | Napier University |
| Anna Wade | Blue Cross |
| Becky Thwaites | Blue Cross |
| Bryn Tennant | SAC Consulting |
| Diane Bain | |
| Dick Morrison | Scottish Kennel Club |
| Elsbeth Stirling | |
| Fraser Lamb | SACS |
| Jamie Stewart | SCA |
| Jane Stirling | Napier University |
| Jennifer Terris | Dogs Trust |
| John Bruce | British Deer Society |
| Karen Gray | Advocates for Rabbit Welfare |
| Libby Anderson | OneKind |
| Micheal Park | APHA |
| Neil Hudson | BEVA |
| Nicolle Hamilton | BASC |
| Patricia Saluja | University of Aberdeen |
| Penny Middleton | NFUS |
| Peter McDonald | Horse Rescue Scotland |
| Peter Stevenson | Compassion in World Farming |
| Rhona O'Malley | Advocates for Rabbit Welfare |
| Sarah Allen | OneKind |
| Sarah Moyes | OneKind |
| Sue Whittle | Compassion in World Farming |
| Tricia Colville | BVA |

Apologies

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|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Gillian Martin MSP | Rona Mackay MSP |
| Emma Harper MSP | Colin Smyth MSP |
| Andrew Blake | West Lothian Council |
| Ashley Farquarson | Perth and Kinross Council |
| Cathy Dwyer | Edinburgh University |
| Charles Everitt | NWCU |
| David Woolfries | Stirling Council |
| Haley Atkin | BVA |
| Howard Bridges | Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home |
| Kevin Flack | IFAW |
| Kirsteen McKenzie | Perth and Kinross Council |
| Mike Flynn | SSPCA |
| Pete Ritchie | Nourish |
| Richard Clare | Cats Protection |
| Seonaig Johnston | Greyhound Welfare |
| Tracy Sheills | Cats Protection |
| Allan Sim | Edna Elliot-McColl |
| Elizabeth Omerod | George Leslie |
| Mauvis Gore | Nigel Miller |

1. Introductions

The Convener (CG) opened the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

CG intimated apologies as listed above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Letter from Cabinet Secretary

The convenor expressed disappointment that the Cabinet Secretary had declined to meet the cross party group MSPs. Members agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary to request a timeline for legislative change.

5. Animal Sentience

Peter Stevenson (PS) Compassion for World Farming gave a presentation on the issues surrounding sentience.

In anticipation of Brexit it is essential that Article 13 where animals are recognised as sentient is incorporated. Scotland needs a clear independent approach. Sentience does not fit into the Good Food Nation Bill – it requires a unique piece of legislation.

Colin Smyth (CS) explained that sentience is included in the EU Continuity Bill that is now being challenged by the Supreme Court

Libby Anderson (LA) added all regulations and directives to be incorporated in UK law. The implication being that sentience will be implicit in legislation where OneKind and Compassion want it to be explicit.

CS to draft a letter asking if the EU continuity Bill is sufficient to cover animal sentience.

6. Fish Welfare

OneKind gave a presentation on farmed salmon.

Scotland is the world's 3rd largest salmon producer and the Scottish Government has a target of increasing output by a third. There are unacceptably high levels of mortality. Statistics obtained from the Fish Health Inspectorate indicate that stress, injuries and sea lice are significant problems. The methods being used to tackle these problems also have welfare implications (cleaner fish, thermolizer etc.) OneKind would like more research carried out.

Tricia Colville BVA highlighted that there is a Fish Health Welfare working group and any information should be fed in to them.

Michale Park APHA explained that the Fish Health Inspectorate have vets who are trained in fish health and can take enforcement action under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007.

7. Cat Neutering

The petition regarding the issue is going through the Scottish Parliament

NH to circulate the presentation to the group

8. Future meetings

Racehorse welfare – Scottish Racing

Rabbit Welfare Guidance Implementation – Advocates for Rabbit Welfare

Greyhound welfare

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd October 2018