

Virtual Animal Welfare CPG AGM  
Friday October 9 at 2pm

Apologies

Christine Nevin  
Alan Sim  
John Robins  
George Caldow  
Miles Briggs  
Rona Mackay  
Gail Ross  
Elaine Henley  
Andy Swinburne  
Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine  
Alex Stoddart

MSPs present Emma Harper, Alison Johnstone & Colin Smyth

Talk by Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS  
Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare  
'The impact and challenges of Covid on animal welfare policies and legislation'

Various questions asked included

Mike Flynn asked for new powers to local authorities for legislation, the new powers for local authorities revolves around the proposed regulation and licensing of animal sanctuaries and animal rehoming centres.

Christine as the convener of the CPG to write to the relevant Minister and seek assurance that sufficient legal department time is allocated to allow these proposals to be implemented.

Emma Harper raised questions on products from the US prior to Brexit, food labelling etc

The need for mobile abattoirs, animal journeys should be justified.

Colin Smyth raised since CWF Judicial Review live transport of un-weaned calves has come to an end due to time limits on journeys.

AGM

Christine Grahame MSP - Chair  
Alison Johnstone MSP - Deputy Convener  
Colin Smyth MSP – Deputy Convener  
Karen Coe – Secretary

Minutes from previous AGM not available due to previous secretary standing down  
Send out minutes from previous meeting for approval

Further questions

Mountain hares? – Stage 3 debate commencing changes when licences agreed.  
Electronic Collars? – Review on electric collars by RSPCA etc Local authorities should give review.  
Pet Travel after Brexit? – Think of the worst.  
Funds for Animal Charities negatively affected by Covid? Only zoos given further funding at this time.  
Action - Christine Grahame to write to the First Minister for access of cash for charities, K  
Alison agreed, Kate Forbes and Mairi Gougeon to be signatories.

Sue Whittle - Shift to less intensive farming, trade deals with China? Not aware of discussion  
Phase out farrow crates and tail docking of pigs? Pig Welfare Guidance should provide further info, HHA  
Inspectors guidance should lead to new legislation, farrow crates discussed with ScotGov, support  
DEFRA in reducing crates.  
Alison Johnstone spoke against farrow crates and agreed growing research finding that the interface  
between humans and animal is causing pandemics.  
Sue Whittle agreed that govt needs to look at the big picture and the True cost of food.

Emma Harper discussed The Livestock Worrying Bill going through committee, in order to bring it up to  
date it should be referred to as the Chase, Attack & Kill. Penalties should be increased to £5,000 for out  
of control dogs who kill, ban of ownership and possibly DNA testing also including alpacas & ostriches in  
the Bill.

Christine to contact Emma regarding taking Emma's place.  
Christine Grahame wants stage 1 on Dogs Bill, max size of litter reduced to three instead of five, the  
draft is three litters in this session.

The Topic for the next virtual meeting is Food Standards

Date proposed - January 15 2021.