

**Cross Party Group for Animal Welfare
64th Meeting
Minutes**

6th October 2016, Committee Room, Scottish Parliament

1. Welcome and introductions

Christine Grahame MSP Convenor
Alison Johnstone MSP Vice Convenor

Adam Reed	St Andrews University
Allan Sim	Canine Concern Scotland
Anna Wade	Blue Cross
Becky Thwaites	Blue Cross
Brian Robinson	Association of British Riding Schools
Denis Hearsum	Perth and Kinross Council
Dick Morrison	Scottish Kennel Club
Edna Elliot-McColl	Observer
Fraser Henderson	Glo-Wild
Gurudeo Saluja	Observer
Harry Huyton	OneKind
Howard Bridges	The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
Jamie Stewart	Scottish Countryside Alliance
Jane Stirling	Napier University
John Bruce	British Deer Society
John Robins	Animal Concern Advice Line
June Chalcroft	Observer
Karen Gray	Rabbits Require Rights
Kevin Flack	IFAW
Lindsay Jardine	The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
Mauvis Gore	Marine Conservation International
Nicola McFarlane	British Horse Society
Patricia Saluja	University of Aberdeen
Peter MacDonald	Horse Rescue Scotland
Simone Foister	Observer
Sue Whittle	Compassion in Edinburgh

2. Apologies received from:

Miles Briggs MSP

Paul Herring	Network for Animals
Jayne Galinsky	Network for Animals
Jacqui Cuff	Cats Protection
Patricia Colville	BSAVA
Samantha Morgan	British Veterinary Nursing Association
Michael Park	Animal and Plant Health Agency
Michelle Thew	Cruelty Free International
Brian Hosie	SAC Consulting
Libby Anderson	OneKind
Lorraine Currie	CATSCO
Charles Everitt	National Wildlife Crime Unit
Claire Calder	Dogs Trust
Tracey Sheills	Cats Protection

Mike Flynn

SSPCA

3. Minutes of previous meeting

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed by the group.

4. Matters arising

4.1 CG raised the Cabinet Secretary's announcements on Animal Welfare

To help prevent animal suffering the use of electric pulse, sonic and spray collars will be prohibited, unless under the guidance of an approved trainer or vet.

Legislation will be changed to permit the shortening of the tails of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies where a vet believes they are likely to be for use as a working dog and risk serious tail injury in later life.

A Bill to ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses will be introduced in May 2017 for implementation in 2018.

A consultation on the offences and penalties under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 will be held in due course.

The ways in which the group could influence these issues would depend on how they go through the Parliamentary process. The group commented that there is no Minister directly responsible for Animal Welfare.

4.2 The group then reflected on the Legacy Paper and the workload of the group for the year. CCTV in slaughterhouses remains an issue and a manifesto commitment by the SNP. The group will review a historical paper produced by the group on this issue at the next meeting. It still remains the most up to date and in depth research on CCTV in slaughterhouses in existence.

4.3 The CPG discussed an invitation from Pets at Home to visit one of their Edinburgh stores. Members decided to accept the invitation and a date will be arranged in due course.

4.4 The CPG were asked to put forward potential presentations for future meetings. BT (Blue Cross) offered to present on 'Online Sales', HH (OneKind) on their research into exotics, (Cats Protection) on cat and kitten sales and NM (BHS) on forthcoming Animal Health regulation.

4.5 SW from Compassion for World Farming raised the issue of public awareness of factory farming in Scotland. CG suggested they host an exhibition at the Scottish Parliament to raise awareness among MSPs.

4.6 LJ raised the costs incurred by animal shelters when an animal is being held while a case of animal cruelty goes through the courts. DH advised that this can be reconciled by running a civil and criminal case at the same time so that costs can be recovered.

4.7 The timeline for the Animal Health and Welfare (2006) consultation was discussed. CG will raise a PQ and Andrew Voas from the Scottish Government will be invited to the next meeting to discuss their plans for the consultation on the offences and penalties under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006.

4.8 FH raised the ongoing wildlife disturbance at the Ythan Estuary during the seal pupping season. Where members of the public were picking up seal pups and using drones and throwing stones. The CPG agreed that more needs to be done to raise awareness and

more should be done in schools to educate people from a young age. CG agreed to put forward a PQ to ask what resources are available for this.

4.9 FH raised that transitory and overwintering arrangements should be included in the Wild Animals in Circuses legislation. The group was advised that they can write to the Committee to provide evidence and raise awareness of this issue.

4.10 JS gave a brief presentation on General Licences and advised members that a consultation regarding their use ended on Monday and advised them to contribute.

5 Any other business

5.1 There was no further business

6 Date of next meeting

6.1 The group will meet on Tuesday 13th December, 6-8pm in Committee Room 3.