

Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare Meeting
6.00pm Tuesday 5 September 2017
Committee Room 2

Present:

MSPs Christine Grahame MSP (Convener)
Colin Smyth MSP
Emma Harper MSP
Alison Johnston MSP

Associate Members Jane Stirling, Edinburgh Napier University
Karen Gray, Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
Rhona O'Malley, Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
John Robins, Animal Concern Advice Line
Helene Mauchlen, British Horse Society
Sue Kilby, British Horse Society
Peter MacDonald, Horse Rescue Scotland
Tricia Colville, BVA
Richard Clare, Cats Protection
Howard Bridges, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
Seonaig Johnston, Greyhound rescue
Ed Hayes, Kennel Club
Alison Craig, Napier University
Jane Stirling, Napier University
Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind
Sarah Moyes, OneKind
Jamie Stewart, Scottish Countryside Alliance
Kirsteen Campbell, SSPCA
Mike Flynn, SSPCA
Patricia Saluja, University of Aberdeen
John Burns, World Horse Welfare
Leanne McPake, World Horse Welfare
Amanda Wells, Greyhound Rescue
George Caldow, SAC Consulting
Rebecca Davies

Apologies

John Bruce, BDS
Fraser Henderson, Glo Wild
Kevin Flack, International Fund for Animal Welfare
Mauvis Gore, Marine Conservation International
Charles Everitt, National Wildlife Crime Unit
Vicki Betton, PDSA
Alex Hogg, Scottish Gamekeepers Association
Edna Elliot Mccol
Allan Sim
Nigel Miller
Patricia Neeson

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 subject to minor corrections.

4. Greyhounds Welfare

Seonaig Johnston gave an informative presentation on the issues facing greyhounds in Scotland namely;
Welfare organisations taking in abused greyhounds and not reporting to the Police
The industry is self-regulated by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain
Greyhounds are being bred and exported to countries with no welfare regulation.

Mike Flynn SSPCA (MF) stated that the legislation was already in place it was a question of obtaining evidence.

Emma Harper MSP (EH) agreed to bring forward a motion or raise a question on the issue of greyhound welfare.

5. Horse Welfare

Presentation by Peter MacDonald of Horse Rescue Scotland raising a number of issues affecting equines in Scotland including;

The slow progress of the Central Equine database, no one knows how many horses there are.

Horses being advertised as 'free to a good home' with people being financially ill equipped to care for the animals.

The lack of education for general horse care with people learning from their peers.

Proposed that there should be a licensing system requiring an annual horse MOT to ensure adequate care.

Colin Smyth agreed to ask a PQ on the timeline for Equine Database

6. 'Puppy Contract' legislation

Christine Grahame MSP (CG) informed members that she would be bringing forward a Private Members Bill enshrining the duties and obligations of those breeding pets for sale and those who acquire them. This was welcomed by the group.

7. AOB

Future presentations

Subjects agreed for presentation at the next meeting included:

Government official to update the group on forthcoming animal welfare regulation.

Puppy Smuggling (Dogs Trust)

Tail docking (OneKind)