

Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare Meeting
6.00pm Tuesday 13 March 2018
Committee Room 3

Present:
MSPs

Colin Smyth MSP (Convener)
Alison Johnstone MSP
Rhona MacKay MSP

Associate Members

Adam Reed, University of St Andrews
Andrew Voas, Scottish Government
Brian Robinson, Association of British Riding Schools
Brynn Tenant, SRUC
Daisy Page, Battersea Dog and Cat Home
Diane Bain, Observer
Gilly Mendes Ferrira, SSPCA
Jennifer Terris, Dogs Trust
Karen Gray, Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
Kirsteen Campbell, SSPCA
Lawrence Mearns, Scottish Government
Libby Anderson, OneKind
Malcolm Davidson, BHS
Michael Park, APHA
Mike Flynn, SSPCA
Nicolle Hamilton, BASC
Patricia Saluja, Aberdeen University
Peter Ritchie, Nourish Scotland
Rhona O'Malley, Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
Sarah Allen, OneKind
Sean Wensley, PDSA
John Burns, World Horse Welfare
Richard Clare, Cats Protection
Sue Whittle, Volunteer for Compassion in World Farming

Apologies

Christine Grahame MSP
Emma Harper MSP
Maurice Golden MSP

Howard Bridges, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
John Bruce, British Deer Society
John Robins, Animal Concern Advice Line
Rebecca Davies
Edna Elliot-McColl
Ed Hayes, Kennel Club
Hayley Atkin, BVA
Kirsteen MacKenzie, Perth and Kinross Council
Dick Morrison, Scottish Kennel Club
Helene Mauchlen, British Horse Society
Ed Hayes, Kennel Club
Tricia Colville, BVA/BSAVA
Brian Robinson, Association of British Riding Schools
Seonaig Johnston, Greyhound Rescue
Jane Stirling, Napier University

1. Introductions

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

2. Apologies

CS intimated apologies as listed above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to minor corrections.

4. Sentencing in Animal Cruelty cases – Battersea Dog and Cat Home

Daisy Page (DP) from Battersea Dog and Cat Home outlined their campaign for an increase in maximum sentences for serious animal welfare crime up to 5 years. She stated that Sherriff have spoken out regarding the need to increase maximum penalty to give greater flexibility when issuing sentences. In Westminster the Animal Sentience and Sentencing Bill includes proposals for greater sentences.

Andrew Voas stated that the Scottish Government have given a commitment to increase maximum sentences. They are also looking at fixed penalty notices for less serious offences like not having a dog microchipped. Waiting for Parliamentary time. DP encouraged members to contact their MSP. AV explained a standalone Bill on animal welfare would give greater flexibility and scope for regulation.

Mike Flynn urged MSPs in the group to put forward a Private Members Bill in the hope that the Scottish Government would pick it up.

Libby Anderson sentence is important and at Westminster it is being separated from sentencing in the Bill.

Peter Ritchie highlighted the opportunity presented by the Good Food Nation Bill and that sentence should be on the face of it.

Colin Smyth (CS) proposed that the MSP members of the group write to the Cabinet Secretary requesting a meeting to discuss how they can work with the Government to best take this forward. Members agreed to this proposal.

5. Fish Welfare – Discussion

Sue Whittle (SW) gave a brief outline of her concerns regarding the welfare of farmed fish and Diane Bain who had requested the discussion wanted to know what protection there was for pet fish.

It was agreed by the group that this was a significant issue that required representatives from all sides. Members made suggestions for suitable speakers and the secretary agreed to approach them to request they speak at a future meeting.

6. Future Presentations

The group agreed to the following presentations for the meeting on 5th June

Fish

- Farmed fish
- Ornamental fish

Animal Sentience

Cat Neutering Petition

Future meetings

SSPCA presentation on their work

Racehorse welfare – Scottish Racing

Good Food Nation Bill – Nourish Scotland

Rabbit Welfare Guidance Implementation – Advocates for Rabbit Welfare

Greyhound welfare

7. AOB

SW asked members to support Compassion in World Farming's online campaign to ban the export of live animals to Europe.

<http://bit.ly/2FDiMH8>

https://action.ciwf.org.uk/page/20331/action/1?ea.tracking.id=066b4a42&utm_campaign=transport&utm_source=localgroup&utm_medium=facebook

8. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 5th June 2018