

**Cross Party Group for Animal Welfare  
65th Meeting  
Minutes**

**13<sup>th</sup> December 2016, Committee Room 3, Scottish Parliament**

**1. Welcome and introductions**

Christine Grahame MSP      Convenor  
Alison Johnstone MSP      Vice-Convenor

Miles Briggs MSP  
Emma Harper MSP  
Colin Smyth MSP  
Rhona Mackay MSP

Nicolle Hamilton	BASC Scotland (Secretary)
Adam Reed	St Andrews University
Andrew Voas	Scottish Government
Brian Robinson	Association of British Riding Schools
David Woolfries	Animal Health and Welfare Strategy Group
Dick Morrison	Scottish Kennel Club
Howard Bridges	The Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
Jamie Stewart	Scottish Countryside Alliance
John Bruce	British Deer Society
Karen Gray	Rabbits Require Rights
Patricia Saluja	University of Aberdeen
Peter MacDonald	Horse Rescue Scotland
Sue Whittle	Compassion in Edinburgh
Jacqui Cuff	Cats Protection
Jennifer Terris	Dogs Trust
Alex Hogg	Scottish Gamekeepers Association
John Gaffney	Horse Rescue Scotland
Richard Clare	Cats Protection
Sarah Moyes	OneKind
Tim Baynes	Scottish Land and Estates
Brian Hosie	SAC Consulting

**2. Apologies received from:**

Gillian Martin	MSP
Edna Elliot-McColl	Observer
Fraser Henderson	Glo-Wild
Harry Huyton	OneKind
John Robins	Animal Concern Advice Line
Colin Shedden	BASC
Becky Thwaites	Blue Cross
Paul Herring	Network for Animals
Tracy Shiells	CATSCO

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

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

### **4. Presentation by OneKind on Mountain Hare Campaign**

4.1 Libby Anderson from OneKind gave a brief overview of their campaign to date emphasising the importance of Mountain Hare for biodiversity and conservation and that culling was taking place on sporting estates to protect red grouse. There is no reliable data on the numbers of Mountain Hare but they are thought to be in decline. The campaign launched in August and has also run as a petition that has successfully obtained over 8000 signatures.

4.2 Alex Hogg from SGA explained that culls are only carried out when numbers are very high and that Mountain Hare are only found on ground that is managed. Tim Baynes from Scottish Land and Estates added that culls were also carried out to protect trees as is the case with deer.

4.3 Christine Grahame MSP suggested a proper debate could take place at a meeting of the group and agreed with Alison Johnstone MSP that this would be after the publication of the SNH Report on Mountain Hare at the end of the year.

### **5 Presentation by Cats Protection on kitten sales**

5.1 Jacqui Cuff from Cats Protection gave a presentation on 'the true cost of kittens' to the group. She highlighted that the existing legislation is over 60 years old and asked that the Scottish Parliament look at the issue of Cat Breeding. She described a loophole whereby people breeding from the family cat were exempt from regulation. She also illustrated the huge income that can be made from breeding 'moggies'.

5.2 Andrew Voas, Veterinary Advisor to the Scottish Government said that they were looking at the issue as part of an ongoing review of pet animal welfare and they would in due course be making recommendations to the Cabinet Secretary.

5.3 Emma Harper MSP told the group she is hosting a members debate on pet transport on 21<sup>st</sup> December at 1pm.

5.4 Mile Briggs MSP raised that the Police viewed this issue as very low on the priority list considering the other criminality these families are often involved in.

5.5 Christine encouraged the MSPs present to highlight the issue in their local area.

### **6 Pets at Home visit update**

6.1 Pets at home had rescinded their invitation to the group as it was meant only for MSPs. They also declined an invitation to attend the meeting. They had on request produced a poster encouraging people to purchase gift vouchers instead of pets so the pets would be introduced to their new home at a quieter and less stressful time. It was decided to again invite them to attend the next meeting to talk about positive initiatives to improve pet welfare and the positive steps already being taken.

### **7 AOB**

7.1 Dick Morrison from the Scottish Kennel Club raised a planning application for a puppy farm in Ayrshire

7.2 Colin Smyth MSP reminded members that they can brief MSPs prior to the debate on the 21<sup>st</sup> should they want any specific points raised.

7.3 Christine Grahame MSP asked for suggestions for future presentations and the following were suggested by the group

- 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.
- Animal Fostering services for those in crisis or who are ill
- The Bonomy Report
- Compassion for World Farming offered to do a presentation on their work