

**Cross Party Group for Animal Welfare
66th Meeting
Minutes**

18th April 2017, 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
Gail Ross MSP

Nicolle Hamilton	BASC Scotland (Secretary)
John Burns	Wild Horse Welfare
Leanne McPacker	Wild Horse Welfare
Kirsteen Mackenzie	Perth and Kinross Council
Libby Anderson	OneKind
Helene Mauchlen	British Horse Society
Brian Robinson	Association of British Riding Schools
George Leslie	Animal Concern Advice Line
Patricia Gail Saluja	University of Aberdeen
Jamie Stewart	Scottish Countryside Alliance
Karen Gray	Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
George Caldow	SAC veterinary services
Neil Hudson	BEVA
Richard Clare	Cats Protection
Peter Stevenson	Compassion in World Farming
Sue Whittle	Compassion in World Farming
Tricia Colville	BSAVA
Jennifer Terris	Dogs Trust
Diane Muskett	Dogs Trust
David Woolfries	Scottish Animal Health and Welfare Strategy
Michael Park	APHA
Becky Thwaites	Blue Cross
Elizabeth Omerod	IAHAIO
Jessica Wise	(observer)
Eirini Pitsilidi	(observer)
Sara McBride	(observer)
Rhona O'Mally	(observer)
Sam Jack	(observer)
Laura Dunn	(observer)
Iona Barrie	(observer)

2. Apologies received from:

Vicki Betton PDSA
Kevin Flack IFAW
Fraser Henderson Glow-Wild
Peter McDonald
Charles Everitt National Wildlife Crime Unit
Dr. Mauvis Gore Marine Conservation International

3. Minutes of previous meeting

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

4. CCTV in slaughterhouses

4.1 Gail Ross MSP submitting a verbal question to the Cabinet Secretary following a Food Safety Scotland FOI. There is a resolution by the SNP party in support of the issue.
Action: Secretary to circulate answer to the group.

4.2 Libby Anderson OneKind explained that much has changed since the research was carried out. That CCTV is cheaper and more widely used but not situated in the right places. A code of practice would be useful but legislative change is required.

4.3 Christine Grahame MSP suggested a petition could be submitted on behalf of the CPG with members sharing the petition online and attending a demonstration outside the Parliament. This could take place in early May.

Action: MSPs present to meet and discuss wording of petition.

5 Presentation by Compassion in World Farming

5.1 Sue Whittle and Peter Stevenson gave a presentation to the group on the issue of factory farming. They are trying to make more people aware of where their meat comes from and how it is produced. They would like people to buy better quality meat and eat less of it. They ask the Scottish Government to be more ambitious with animal welfare and use their procurement powers to change farming practices. Peter Stevenson encouraged the group to engage with the Good Food Nation Bill and highlight animal welfare importance.

5.3 Christine encouraged the MSPs present to highlight the issue in their local area.
Action: Convener to write to Cabinet Secretary asking that Animal Welfare be on the face of the Good Food Nation Bill. Gail Ross MSP to keep the group briefed on progression of Good Food Nation Bill.

6 Future presentations

6.1 Snaring Presentation OneKind
Fox Hunting
Animal Testing Cruelty International

7 Group discussion on Animal fostering for those in crisis or suffering ill health and Presentation by Elizabeth Omerod from IAHAIO

7.1 Elizabeth Omerod IAHAIO explained that research shows that people with companion animals are healthier. Vulnerable members of society (older people) are being forced to choose between euthanizing their pet and the accommodation they need despite strong evidence collected internationally that companion animals bring huge health and social benefits to people in care homes and sheltered housing.

Action: Alison Johnston to look at comparable legislation in other countries with a view to changing Scottish Law.

7.2 Diane Muskett Dogs Trust stated that their Freedom Project currently running in England will be launched in Scotland next year giving people seeking refuge a place to home their pets.

8 AOB

8.1 Cats protection stated they are currently running 'chip and snip' and 'better regulation of airguns' campaigns.