

Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare Meeting

18.00 Tuesday January 14 2020

Attendees –

Christine Grahame MSP (Convener)

Colin Smyth MSP (Deputy Convener)

Alison Johnstone MSP (Deputy Convener)

Elspeth Stirling	Cat Neutering Campaign,
Andy Swinburne	Naturewatch Foundation,
Gillian Docherty	Scotland Against Greyhound Exploitation (SAGE),
Jaqueline Brown	SAGE & Scottish Greyhound Sanctuary,
John Burns	World Horse Welfare,
Leanne McPake	World Horse Welfare,
Patricia Saluja	U of Aberdeen School of Law,
Sarah Dolman	Whale and Dolphin Conservation,
Ben Parker	Battersea Cat & Dog Home,
Eve Massie	OneKind,
Romaine Pizzi	BVA,
Libby Anderson	OneKind,
Zofia Bekas	U of Edinburgh BSAS,
Tricia Colville	BVA/BSAVA,
Karen Gray	Advocates for Rabbit Welfare,
Rhona O'Malley	Advocates for Rabbit Welfare,
Adam Reed	U of St Andrews,
Henry Northmore	Edinburgh Dog & Cat Home,
Claire Wilson – Leary	Dogs Trust.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Convener welcomed the group and introduced it to new attendees, outlining its purpose.

Apologies –

Edna Elliot-McColl

Delly Innes Scottish Racing,

Alan Sim Cats Protection,

Professor Brian Robinson Cats Protection,

Elaine Henley,

Christine Nevin,

Gail Ross MSP,

Rona Mackay MSP

Dick Morrison Scottish Kennel Club,

Cathy Dwyer,

Sue Whittle.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Accepted,

4. Election of Secretary

Karen Coe, Christine proposed, Libby Seconded.

5. Fox & Mountain Hare Members Bill

Ten thousand responses to the bill, about to draft analysis, need 18 MSP signatures.
Legislate Mairi Gougeon, may be taken forward by Government. Public have a positive response.

6. Environment Questions

Ministers support time for legislation to discuss hunting, caveat regarding Brexit, 14 mths left, previous legal constricts 1-3 to happen in 14mths

7. Greyhounds

Environment Committee re greyhounds petition committee "is it relevant to the bill" Committee evidence on the issue timetabled in, update needed from Greyhound Board with regard to animal health and welfare not economic grounds.

SAGE Petitions Committee want to close the petition, will give evidence, first time for the petition, help for private sessions revealed.

Majority in favour of a ban section 26 Act, raise public awareness and Charities to push for National Campaign

Refer to Public petitions, need Members Debate.

Flapper Track

8. Roundtable on Wildlife Crime

Work needing done on wildlife crime & grouse moors to include REVIVE.

9. Welfare of Dogs Scotland Bill

Drafted, push Government for database for central, licenced breeder to wait 8 weeks for release, private breeders to be added. Litters to be reduced from 5 to 3 per year,

Legislation by the end of session - must be registered on central data base and micro chipped
Act of Parliament if answers still to be found, end of Feb not Nov as not to fail.

Bill to prevent the sale of puppies on Gumtree and puppy farms, must be KC registered.

Edinburgh Cat & Dog Home wants microchip updated when pet changes hands.

1 payment for Registration and chipping.

10. Stink Pits

Must be banned not legislated on, not political, Mairi Gougeon sympathetic.

11. Bull Calves

£60,000 Govt incentive to keep calves with their mothers and not to send abroad.

12. Rabbit Welfare

Consultation to take place on April 16, work is progressing.

13. Microchipped Horses

Established in 2009 for foals, there is an Equine National Data Base, numerous companies offer microchipping but Wetherby's hold the data base.

14. Petition on Cat Neutering

Elspeth gave update, Trap Neuter Return works but not on its own, Public Petitions Committee no decision yet, no date set. Petitions Committee stated experts had given serious evidence and a serious welfare issue had been raised.

Pursue the Committee to step towards legal requirement for Microchipping before Neutering?

15. Australia Write to Australian PM re; Animal Welfare.

