

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare November 17 @ 2pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP

Colin Smyth MSP

Invited guests

Lynda Holton

Aimee Roberts

Amanda Dovesi

Zofia Bekas

Edna Elliot-McColl

Non-MSP Group Members

Karen Coe - Secretary AW CPG

Fiona Howie – SRUC

Paul Reynolds – New Ark

Stewart Donald – Canine Concern

Freddy Bowen-Tate – Animal Concern

Donald Frazer – NatureScot

Keith Marley – New Ark

Stuart Forbes – Blue Cross

Kirsty Jenkins – OneKind

Alice Palombo – Cats.Org

Danielle Knight – The Kennel Club

John Burns – World Horse Welfare

Graeme Corbett – Animal Concern

Elsbeth Stirling – Scottish Badgers

Liz McLauchlan – NatureScot

Apologies

Liz Omerod – SCAS Chairman

Maurice Golden – Conservative MSP

Mark Ruskell – Green MSP

Marie McNair – SNP MSP

Maggie Chapman – Green MSP

Emma Harper – SNP MSP

Rae Walters – Rabbit Welfare

Agenda item 1

Minutes agreed Colin Smyth & Lynda Holton

Agenda item 1

Talk & Presentation by Liz McLaughlan & Donald Frazer of NatureScot

Including species licensing approach, 'The three tests', That there is a licensable purpose; That there is no satisfactory alternative; and. That the action authorised will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Using shared approach with stakeholders and Scottish Animal Welfare Commission regarding Biodiversity, Climate Crisis, including domestic and wild animals.

Welcome a Bute House agreement review regarding all 90 licensing types etc

Q & A

Are additional licences needed for Animal Welfare Centres – no.

Badgers should have habitat protection not just species protection.

Regarding new developments - Developers must apply for licences and one named person is responsible, usually Project Manager

Any licences applied for regarding Hunting with Dogs – nothing approved

Can the public see who has applied for a licence and if it was approved – not yet.

Are licences issued regarding flooding and damage to crops and Rail lines – yes.

MSP Update

Colin Smyth – Working on Banning Snaring, Debating Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill, interested in any developments with regard to Hunting with Dogs, Avian Flu still effecting Barnacle Geese in Colin's area but recovering, pushing for banning greyhound racing & shock collars.

Colin is Species Champion for Badgers so working with SSPCA Special Investigations regarding Badger Baiting.

He wishes to thank all Stakeholders and Welfare Charities for their invaluable insight and knowledge.

Christine Grahame – Working hard on Welfare of Dogs Bill, which will promote Education before purchase, certificate, and registration, but registration may have to fail in order for the bill to move forward, Christine wants to change public behaviour before purchase, Christine giving evidence, Stage 2 and amendments to come.

AOB

Ideas for next meeting to be emailed to secretary, Wildcat Project & Welfare of Animals Abroad suggested.

Date of next meeting TBA.