

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

14 January 2022 at 2pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Stevenson C (Collette), MSP
Chapman M (Maggie), MSP
White T (Tess), MSP
Smyth C (Colin), MSP
Grahame C (Christine), MSP Convenor
Harper E (Emma), MSP
Gallacher M (Meghan), MSP
Brown S (Siobhian), MSP
Carson F (Finlay), MSP

Invited guests

Rhona O'Malley (Advocates for Rabbit Welfare)
Gill Donn (Say No to Greyhound Racing in Scotland)
Sarah Dolman (Whale & Dolphin Conservation)

Non-MSP Group Members

Karen Coe AW CPG Secretary
Debra Torrance
Helene Mauchlen (BHS)
Lesley Whitchurch
Carol Palmer (Abolish Greyhound Racing)
Edna Elliot-McColl
Rebecca Knowles (Farmers for Stock Free Farming)
Luisa Gillies (University of Edinburgh)
Elaine Henley (APBC)
Kate Parker (Nature Watch)
Richard Woodward (BlueCross)
Mike Flynn (SSPCA)
Adam Reed (St Andrews University)
Jane Stirling (Napier University)
Zofia Bekas (University of Edinburgh)
Ioanna Hadjicosta
Alice Palombo (Cats Protection)
Bryn Tennant (SRUC)

Patricia Colville (BVA & BSAVA rep)
Romain Pizzi (BVA Scotland)
Tracy Lygo
Amro (The Humane League UK)
Claire Calder (Dogs Trust)
Kirsty Jenkins (OneKind)
Leanne McPake (World Horse Welfare)
Ben Parker (Battersea)
Elsbeth Stirling (Scottish Badgers)
Ian Andrew (BPCA)
Linda Hunt
John Bruce (The British Deer Society)
Cathy Dwyer (University of Edinburgh, JMI CAWE)
John Burns (Horse Welfare)
Ed Hayes (The Kennel Club)
Richard Ackers (Justice for Reggie)

Apologies

Nigel Miller (Livestock Health Scotland)
Ann Southwood (Borders Pet Rescue)
George Caldow (SRUC Vet Services).

Christine welcomed everyone joining the meeting and wished them all a Happy New Year.

Maggie Chapman MSP approved the minutes.

Agenda item 1

Talk by Rhona O'Malley from Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
ACTION - Christine to draft a letter to Shirley Ann Somerville, Cab Sec for Education asking to add Animal Welfare to the Curriculum for Excellence in Primary Schools.

Agenda item 2

Presentation by Gill Donn from Abolish Greyhound Racing
ACTION – Gill to send her comments on the reply from GBGB, Christine will draft a response and circulate to all the members of the AW CPG. Also send response letter to GBGB.

Agenda item 3

Presentation by Sarah Dolman from Whale & Dolphin Conservation on Marine Animal Entanglement
ACTION – Finlay Carson MSP to update Maggie Chapman MSP on Rural Affairs & Islands National Environment Committee, Maggie to get an update on the Inshore Fisheries Legislation.

Agenda item 4

AOB -

Update from Emma Harper MSP on the Sheep Worrying Livestock Amendment to Scotland Bill,

Livestock Worrying Campaign by the Scottish Partnership against Rural Crime “Your Dog Your Responsibility” ,Legislation has been updated to give more power to investigate and prosecute ahead of lambing season.

Information for the public will be on social media soon and Emma has written to Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands to ask how the government will support raising awareness.

Emma has written to Nature Scot and Police Scotland asking how they will support raising awareness.

Suggested a future update from Inspector Alan Drawn, who is lead on Scottish Partnership on Rural Crime.

Gilly Mendes will include livestock worrying in schools education.

Finlay Carson MSP asked Members to continue to correspond with all MSPs and advise on topics which may otherwise be missed.

Greyhound petition raised will be coming to committee.

CG update Welfare of Dogs Scotland Bill, agreement with Mairi Gougeon to deal with people who buy puppies not the sellers.

Mike Flynn SSPCA – Since Covid the amount of pups brought in has skyrocketed by 134% and complaints have increased, but has died down since November because legislation changed on how many pups can come from Ireland.

The public are fuelling demand.

Next Meeting –

10 mins Rebecca Knowles from Farmers for Stock Free Farming.

Amro from Humine League Stun fish before slaughter.

Rick from Justice for Reggie.

Kate Parker from Naturewatch Foundation presentation Canine Fertility Clinics.

Next Meeting – Friday March 11 at 2pm