

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

29 October 2021 at 2pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Grahame C (Christine), MSP

McNair M (Marie), MSP

Stevenson C (Collette), MSP

Chapman M (Maggie), MSP

Dowey S (Sharon), MSP

Mackay R (Rona), MSP

Smyth C (Colin), MSP

Harper E (Emma), MSP

White (Tess) MSP

Stevenson C (Collette), MSP

Invited guests

Andrew Voas BVM&S MRCVS
Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare

Non-MSP Group Members

Coe K (Karen)

Kirsteen MacKenzie

Julie Simpson

Edna Elliot-McColl

Elsbeth Stirling Scottish Badgers

Gill Donn

Alice Amelia Brooke (Borders Pet Rescue)

Dr inż. Magdalena Pieszka

Rhona O'Malley

Bryn Tennant

Dykes G (Gillian)

Zofia Bekas (Guest)

Helene Mauchlen

Kate Parker

Hayley Atkin (BVA)

Richard Woodward

Patricia Colville

Richard Clare

Ross Ewing (Scotland)

Rich Clare (Battersea) (Guest)

Jamie Simpson

Claire Wilson-Leary

Alice Palombo

Delly Innes

William Pickworth

Rachel (Guest)

Fiona Pereira

Rebecca Knowles (Guest)

DWYER Cathy

Kirsty Jenkins

O'Keeffe G (Grace)

Tipper, Liezel

Apologies

Mark Ruskell & Team

Sarah Moyes - Compassion in World Farming

Finlay Carson MSP

Sue – CIWF

Maurice Golden MSP

George Caldow - SRUC Veterinary Services

Nicola Gunn – EDCH

Ann Southwood – Borders Pet Rescue

Pete Ritchie- Nourish Scotland

Siobhian Brown MSP

Meghan Gallacher MSP

Dr Nick Palmer CIWF

Agenda item 1

Briefing from Andrew Voas, Scottish Government Veterinary Head of Animal Welfare on the government's programme relating to animal welfare issues.

The main animal welfare commitments in the Programme for Government (Chapter 4) [A Fairer, Greener Scotland: Programme for Government 2021-22 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot) are:

Before 2025, we will **review animal welfare legislation**, and also take forward a range of legislative measures over this Parliament, including:

- Introduce a Bill this year to strengthen the law relating to the use of dogs to hunt and flush foxes and other wild mammals, implementing the majority of the recommendations of the independent report on the Protection of Wild Mammals (Scotland) Act 2002, and introduce further measures such as preventing trail hunting.
- Work with other UK administrations on legislation to control exports of livestock and imports of dogs, modernise zoo licensing, and control import and sale of products that raise ethical concerns such as fur.

- Start consultation this year on proposals to improve animal transport legislation, and phase out cages for gamebirds and laying hens, and farrowing crates for pigs.
- Consult on legislation to extend the framework for licensing of activities involving animals, to new areas such as performing animals and animal care services
- Implement recent livestock worrying legislation which will come into force in November 2021.
- Through an independent taskforce, consider whether the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Scottish SPCA) should be given extra legislative powers to investigate wildlife crime. This group will report before the end of 2022.
- Review the wider species licensing system with a view to ensuring that the law is being applied correctly and that lethal control is only licensed where the conditions required for such a licence are demonstrably being met. The review will also assess the potential to apply the principle of full cost recovery to species licensing and the introduction of a public register of licenses to improve transparency.

Agenda item 2

Q&A for above.

Agenda item 3

Bi-monthly meetings suggested and agreed

Next proposed meeting 2pm on Friday 14th January 2022

ACTION - Christine to write to the GBGB and inc Gill's questions

Topic for discussion at next meeting –

Greyhound Welfare update from Gill Donn, Abolish Greyhound Racing, 10 min slot.

Rhona O'Malley, Advocates for Rabbit Welfare update on the progress, 10 min slot.

Sarah Dolman – Whale & Dolphin Conservation Group – net entanglement presentation. 20 mins

Rebecca, Stock Free Farming to present in next meeting in March

One Kind - Discuss animal testing in the March meeting

Humane League – Stun before slaughter proposal March Meeting