

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

Friday September 29 at 12

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Grahame C (Christine), MSP

Colin Smyth MSP

Chapman M (Maggie), MSP

Harper E (Emma), MSP

Golden M (Maurice), MSP

Gallacher M (Meghan), MSP

Ruskell M (Mark), MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Coe K (Karen)

Libby

Jill Stewart

Charlotte McNamara

Holton L (Lynda)

Stewart Donald, Canine Concern Scotland Trust

Gareth Hateley

Roberts A (Aimee)

Charity Manager

Skipper, Alison

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Richard Woodward

Graeme Corbett

Kirsty Jenkins

Kirsteen MacKenzie

Caroline Robinson

Leanne McPake

Holly Conway

Madison Rogers

Natalie Harney

Lauren Wards

Rae Walters

Zofia Bekas

Apologies

Jake Swindells, Countryside Alliance

Justice for Reggie

Marie McNair MSP

Tatevik Hovhannisyan. Vegetarian for Life

Romain Pizzi BVSc MSc

BASC

Minutes - agreed by members

AGM Business – chaired by Lynda Holton

Election of Convener: Christine Grahame MSP proposed by Maurice Golden MSP, seconded by Emma Harper MSP.

Election of Vice Convener: Maurice Golden MSP proposed by Maggie Chapman MSP, seconded by Christine Grahame MSP.

Election of Vice Convener: Colin Smyth MSP proposed by Libby Anderson, seconded by Christine Grahame MSP.

Secretary: Karen Coe proposed by Christine Grahame MSP, seconded by Maggie Chapman MSP

Agenda item 1

Presentation by Charlotte McNamara of the Kennel Club-

Breeding, Buying and Bringing Up Brachycephalic Dogs Better

“There is currently widespread concern surrounding the health and welfare of popular brachycephalic types of dog, such as Pugs, Bulldogs and French Bulldogs” - The Kennel Club,

Q&A –

Included questions about reach and engagement, the use of webinar support available to all, the addition of rabbits and cats that are effected, The amount of breeders and the challenge to reach them all, only responsible breeders and owners is recommended, health and future problems is an issue. What can Govts do, banning not the answer, small issues can make a difference and can be included in registration, irresponsible breeders and owners are a problem. Better enforcement of registration and educate new buyers, advertisers and insurance companies. BVA keen to get involved. Is banning Brachycephalic Dogs due to the health issues a solution or not workable.

MSP Updates –

Colin Smyth MSP update (by email)

Since the last meeting the Scottish Government have announced that they are likely to bring an amendment at Stage 2 of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill which is currently going through the Rural Affairs Committee. The Government are consulting on the issue and I am keen that any ban follows Wales with no loopholes (i.e no use of snares even under licence and no use of so-called "humane holding devices" as an alternative). I recently attended and spoke in support of a ban on greyhound racing at the Grey2kUSA Worldwide conference held in Edinburgh along with campaigners from a range of charities and organisations and I hosted the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards Shortlisting event in Parliament. Since the last meeting I have been working with the RSPB on the issue of the impact of commercial forestry on the red squirrel population, tabling a number of questions.

Maggie Chapman MSP update

Sending it to secretary

Emma Harper MSP update

Update of sheep attack by dogs, Emma has written to the Lord Advocate.

Mark Ruskell MSP update

Attended Grey2kUSA Worldwide conference held in Edinburgh, Phase out Greyhound Racing consultation, proposal for bill.

Christine Grahame MSP update

Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill.

Christine praised colleagues in Parliament for their support for Animal Welfare. Strong cross party support for Animal Welfare Issues.

Future Agenda Discussed -

Proposed date of next virtual meeting - Friday 17th November at 2pm

Agenda may include Nature Scot update and Shock Collar update.