

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

Minute

Friday December 9 at 2pm

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP (Convenor)
Colin Smyth MSP (Deputy Convenor)
Stevenson C (Collette), MSP
Chapman M (Maggie), MSP
White T (Tess), MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Coe Karen, Secretary
Alice Palombo
Ferdy Willans
Ross MacLeod
Dew C (Carol)
Helene Mauchlen
Nicola Gunn
Richard Woodward
Caroline Robinson
Millward, Jordon
Ed Hayes
Adam Reed
Caroline Farrell
Jane Washington-Evans, Anti-Snaring
Keith Marley
Stewart Donald
Mike Flynn SSPCA
Paul Reynolds The NEW ARC, HART Wildlife Rescue
Elspeth Stirling Scottish badgers
Freddy Bowen
Ross Ewing
Antonia Ganser Brulisauer,
Natalie Harney
Stirling, Jane
Peter Clark (Scotland)
Graeme
Amro Hussain (THL UK)
Edna Elliot-McColl

Ramos, Susana
Libby
Kirsty Jenkins OneKind
Patricia Colville
Zofia Bekas

Apologies

Marie McNair MSP
Debra Torrance
Ariane Burgess MSP
Katy Clark
Simon Wild Anti-Snaring
Romaine Pizzey BVA
Rona Mackay MSP
Siobhain Brown MSP
Mark Ruskell MSP
Jake Swindells, Countryside Alliance
Rhona O'Malley ARW
Nigel Miller

Minutes agreed – Colin Smyth MSP

Agenda item 1

Presentation by Ross Macleod, Head of Policy (Scotland) Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust
Presentation PDF available on request.

Agenda item 2

Q&A –

Broad ranging discussion on existing regulations and recently passed recommendations to ban snares from SWAC.
Impact of avian flu on birds, should foxes be shot instead of snared, is data recorded and accurate with regard to snares, query whether grouse should be imported and what impact does this have on grey partridge, do migratory birds increase the likelihood of Avian Flu. Illegal snares go unreported, success of breakaway snares used on some foxes but weight dependant,

Agenda item 3

MSP Update

MSPs who left the meeting early will be asked to email if they have information

Colin Smyth –

In the Annual Fisheries debate Colin focussed on protect and recover ecosystems.

Supports the ban on snaring.

Concerned with avian flu.

Gave speech at Hunting Bill Stage 1 in October, feels the bill doesn't go far enough.

Disappointed at Stage 2 the Rural Affairs, animal welfare amendments were rejected.

Growing consensus that Greyhound Racing should be banned, starting with unlicensed tracks in Scotland.

Christine Grahame

Attended Greyhound debate and attended the Rural Committee debate had amendments to tighten up licensing

Hunting with Dogs Bill -definitions needed and a register of licences for using more dogs should be required.

Clean Boot Hunting Christine has concerns about whether it will lead to hounds catching foxes, could be a roundabout way of continuing hunting.

Welfare of Dogs bill is practically ready and supports responsible ownership, not purchasing from the internet etc, there is lots of support for it. Hoping for certification for purchasers.

Agenda item 4

AOB –

Stewart Donald, Canine Concern Scotland Trust, discussed the Firework and Pyrotechnic legislation.

Jane Washington-Evans, Anti-Snaring discussed Clean Boot Hunting, uses Bloodhounds not Foxhounds which chase a human scent and it can be implemented in one season, young hunters are keen to take up this change, by comparison Trail Hunting can result in kills and may be banned.

Future Agenda Discussed –

Members to email the Secretary if they are interested in presenting.

Elsbeth Stirling, Scottish Badgers will give an update at the next meeting.

Date of next meeting TBA.