

# MINUTE

## Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February @ 18:00

### Present

#### MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP (Scottish National Party)  
Emma Harper MSP (Scottish National Party)  
Maggie Chapman MSP (Scottish Green Party)

#### Non-MSP Group Members

Alice Palombo, Cats Protection  
Amanda Dovesi  
Amelia Morgan  
Anastasios Chalos, Animal Equality UK  
Chris, Justice for Reggie  
Clare Andrews  
Claire Gray  
Delly Innes, Scottish Racing  
Devon Docherty, Animal Concern  
Edna Elliot-McColl  
Elena Edwards, Animal Concern  
Elspeth Stirling, Scottish Badgers  
Georgina Charlton, British Horse Society  
Gill Donn, Say No To Greyhound Racing in Scotland  
Hannah Orr, SRUC  
Jane Stirling  
Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind  
Lee-Ann Howieson, Dogs Trust  
Leslie Bain  
Libby Anderson  
Lynda Holton  
Marie Bell  
Michael Park, Animal and Plant Health Agency  
Mike Flynn  
Natalie Harney, Naturewatch  
Nick Hawkes, Humane World for Animals UK  
Patricia Colville, British Small Animal Veterinary Association  
Paul Reynolds, New Arc Wildlife Rescue/British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council  
Rebecca Frase, BASC  
Richard Clare  
Richard Woodward, Blue Cross  
Ruairidh Nichols

Stewart Donald, Canine Concern Scotland Trust  
Vicky Skinner, Animal Focused Alliance

## **Invited Guests**

Jim Ferguson, NDWA  
Hilary Nicholson, NDWA  
Danielle, NDWA  
David Stainthorpe, NDWA  
Mark Smith, NDWA  
Dr Romain Pizzi

## **Agenda item 1 – Apologies**

Maurice Golden MSP  
Mark Ruskell MSP  
Louise Robertson, Message Matters  
Phil McKinnon, Association of Microchip Database Operators (AMDO)  
Robert McGeachy, FSS  
Seonaig Johnston, Say No To Greyhound Racing in Scotland  
Dan Jarvis, British Divers Marine Life Rescue  
Donna Hingley, Cats Whiskers  
Lorraine Currie, Protect Cats Scotland

## **Agenda item 2 – Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of last meeting (17<sup>th</sup> September 2025) approved. Proposed by Libby Anderson; seconded by Alice Palombo.

## **Agenda item 3 – Presentation #1**

Presentation on dog wardens by the National Dog Wardens Association (NDWA) (Scotland).

*[PRESENTATION SLIDES PROVIDED TO CIRCULATE WITH MINUTE]*

Followed by Q&A.

## **Agenda item 4 – Presentation #2**

Presentation on beaver welfare by Dr Romain Pizzi.

*[PRESENTATION SLIDES PROVIDED TO CIRCULATE WITH MINUTE]*

Followed by Q&A.

## **Agenda item 5 – MSP Update**

Emma Harper – Dumfries & Galloway Council is establishing a doggy park for safe, segregated, off-lead exercise in Dalbeattie.

Maggie Chapman – Nature Environment Bill passed.

Christine – Congratulated Mark Ruskell on Greyhound Bill passing at stage 1. Recently met with a red squirrel preservation group. Lodged written questions on salmon slaughter today. Currently working on amending the draft Code of Practice for Dog Welfare Act.

Maggie & Christine also summarised the work they have been doing regarding the concerns raised via the CPGAW about animal welfare relating to Charles River Laboratories, including a meeting with the SSPCA. Christine proposed submitting a parliamentary question on how many animal testing facilities are in Scotland and how many deliveries of animals for this purpose. Christine and Maggie to discuss options to progress.

## **Agenda item 6 – AOB**

CPG members, led by Libby Anderson, paid tribute to Christine for her long service as Convener and presented her with a gift and card.

## **Agenda item 7 – date and content of next meeting**

Christine noted that this will be the last meeting of the CPGAW before dissolution. As she is retiring at the election it will be up to MSPs elected to the new Parliament to re-establish the CPGAW if they wish. Christine will prepare a legacy paper outlining the outstanding presentation topics and any other useful information with a view to passing this on to the new Convener.

Lynda noted that we would need the explicit consent of those on the CPGAW distribution list to be passed over to any newly formed group, and will send out an email requesting this before dissolution.