

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

May 20, 2022 at 2pm

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP (Convenor)

Maggie Chapman MSP (Deputy Convenor)

Meghan Gallacher MSP

Mark Ruskell MSP

Colin Smyth MSP (Deputy Convenor)

Non-MSP Group Members

Jaime Wild

Ian Andrew BPCA

John Bruce BDS

Kirsteen MacKenzie

Kirsty Jenkins OneKind

Lucy Colquhoun

Madison Rogers

Martin Morgan

Mike Flynn SSPCA

Natalie Harvey

Patricia Colville

Rae Walters Rabbit Welfare

Joy Ramsay
Richard Woodward
Richard Clare
John Burns
Jane Stirling
Albert Tarongi
Debra Torrance
Zofia Bekas

Apologies

Dr Colin Shedden BASC
Helene Mauchlen BHS
Edna Elliot-McColl
Delly Inness
Katy Clark MSP
Mercedes Villalba MSP
Emma Harper MSP

Minutes agreed – Maggie Chapman MSP

Agenda item 1

Keith Marley from The New Arc, Avian Flu Presentation

Cancelled due to illness

Agenda item 2

Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind, Presented - 7 Principles of Ethical Wildlife 'Control'

1. Begin by modifying human practices
2. Justify with evidence

3. Ensure objectives are clear and achievable
4. Prioritise animal welfare
5. Maintain social acceptability
6. Conduct systematic planning
7. Make decisions based on specifics, not labels.

“A long term education based process based on preventative action and increased tolerance, is also necessary to move toward a culture of greater co-existence with wildlife, such a culture could result in some control actions being unnecessary”

“Low level killing and abundant or prolific animals can amount to senseless killing if populations rebound quickly, this is particularly problematic if control actions carry substantial animal welfare or other costs”

Q&A –

Broad ranging discussion on Ethical Wildlife Control and range of views
Deer management was discussed, John Bruce spoke on behalf of the British Deer Society regarding ethical wildlife control. Discussion and questioning followed.

MSP Update

Colin Smyth - Has members debate on 31st May, Good Food Bill being discussed

Maggie Chapman – Working to ensure stronger approach to wildlife crime. Proper justice recognition for wildlife crime. Corn Bunting Champion

Meghan Gallacher– Met with RSPB discussed various investments, Joining raptor study group, Promote wildlife in schools

Mark Ruskell – Rural Affairs and Environment cttee with regard to greyhounds, looking into injuries and deaths at greyhound tracks, writing to police, govt etc discussing SSPCA powers. Bluesy won the public vote. White Tailed Eagle Champion

Christine Grahame - Mabel won Holyrood Dog of the Year, Welfare of Dogs Scotland Act being drafted, Christine is Golden Eagle Champion.

Future Agenda Discussed -

Simon Wild, Anti Snaring Campaign

Avian Flu needs to be given a space

Martin Morgan –Slaughterhouse Welfare, Invite alternative view needed.

Date of next virtual meeting including AGM

September 2nd @ 2pm