

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

Sept 05, 2022 at 2pm

Minutes

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP (Convenor)

Colin Smyth MSP (Deputy Convenor)

Collette Stevenson MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Fay Sinclair

Simon Wild (National Anti-snaring Campaign)

Paul Reynolds (HART Wildlife Rescue)

Mike Flynn SSPCA

Alice Palombo

John Bruce

Bob Elliot

Cathy Dwyer

Elsbeth Stirling (Scottish Badgers)

John Burns

Katie Maguire

Keith Marley

Kirsteen MacKenzie

Lauren Wards (Dogs Trust)

Leanne McPake
Libby Anderson
Natasha Wright
Patricia Colville
Peter Clark (BASC)
Olivia Pullman
Susanna Ramos
Richard Clare
Simon Ritchie
Jane Stirling
Debra Torrance

Apologies

Rhona Mackay MSP
Martin Morgan

Minutes - agreed by members

AGM Business – chaired by Fay Sinclair

Election of Convener: Christine Grahame MSP proposed by Colin Smyth MSP, seconded by Collette Stevenson MSP.

Election of Vice Convener: Colin Smyth MSP proposed by Christine Grahame MSP, seconded by Collette Stevenson MSP.

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Secretary: Karen Coe proposed by Christine Grahame MSP, seconded by Colin Smyth MSP.

Agenda item 1

Paul Reynolds, HART Wildlife Rescue, Avian Flu Presentation

Due to rescue centres not being able to take in birds, members of the public are taking birds home, which causes issues for spread of Avian Flu.

There is a risk of Avian Flu jumping species to humans, foxes, other mammals.

Seeking specific biosecurity advice for wildlife rehabilitation centres as current government guidance is more focussed at farms.

Q&A — Discussion included the need to look at wider infectious disease control and whether there should be more resource for local authorities to deal with Avian Flu.

Agenda item 2

Simon Wild, National Anti-Snaring Campaign, presentation on impact of snares.

So-called “breakaway snares” have been tested and found a much greater force is needed to get free. Examples of injuries to badgers, foxes, rabbits, dogs and cats.

Q&A —

Broad ranging discussion on existing regulations and support for a future ban on snares. Christine Grahame to write to Scottish Government to ask how many licensed snares there are and what does the data say about how the current legislation is working.

MSP Update

Colin Smyth – Members debate on an “Ethical framework for wildlife control” – pressing for international consensus principles for ethical wildlife control to be incorporated into law. Debate can be read here [Meeting of the Parliament: 31/05/2022 | Scottish Parliament Website](#)

Oral questions asked since the last meeting on issues such as banning greyhound racing, avian flu, a number of written questions on the use of medicated grit the recommendations in the Deer Working Group report and the reporting of deer cull targets.

Two forthcoming events outside the Scottish Parliament - “Consign Snares to History” protest 11.30 am to 1 pm on Saturday 17th September, also “For the Foxes” march and rally outside Parliament on Saturday 29th October.

Christine Grahame - Christine is Golden Eagle Champion and gave an update on a recent visit.

Future Agenda Discussed -

Alternative view on snaring; agreed to invite Peter Clark, British Association for Shooting and Conservation, to speak at next meeting.

Slaughterhouse Welfare, as previously discussed but not yet attended.

Date of next virtual meeting - TBC