

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)
9 July 2021
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
17 September 2025
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
30 September 2025
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]
11 September 2024
GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures. Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.
<u>Wednesday 11th September 2024</u> Present MSPs Christine Grahame MSP (SNP) Maggie Chapman MSP (Scottish Green Party)

Maurice Golden MSP (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)

Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour)

Invited guests

Jessica Terry, World Animal Protection

Katheryn Wise, World Animal Protection

Stuart McAdam, Food Standards Scotland

Non-MSP Group Members

Libby Anderson

Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind

Chloe Barker, Blue Cross

Mike Flynn, SSPCA

Lee-Anne Howieson, Dogs Trust

Lianne MacLennan, British Association of Shooting and Conservation

Alice Palombo

Natalie Harney, Naturewatch

Delly Innes, Scottish Racing

Jack Barton, British Horseracing Authority

John Burns, World Horse Welfare

Dan Jarvis, British Divers Marine Life Rescue

Helene Mauchlen, British Horse Society

Paul Reynolds, New Arc Wildlife Rescue / British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council

Jane Stirling

Nicola Strachan, SSPCA

Dr Elspeth Stirling, Scottish Badgers

Hannah Orr, SRUC

Albert Tarongi

Keith Marley, New Arc Wildlife Rescue

Eloise Martin

Chris Topping

Georgie Hancock, The Humane League

Jake Swindells, Countryside Alliance

Robert McGeachy, Food Standards Scotland

Rae Walters

Lynda Holton (Secretary)

Agenda item 1 – Apologies

Mark Ruskell MSP

Dr Stewart Donald, Canine Concern Scotland Trust

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of previous AGM

No objections.

Agenda item 3 – AGM – election of office bearers

Convener: Christine Grahame (nominated by Maurice, seconded by Colin).

Deputy Conveners: Maurice Golden, Colin Smyth, Maggie Chapman (all nominated by Christine, no objections).

Secretary: Lynda Holton (nominated by Christine, seconded by Colin).

Agenda item 4 – Minutes of last ordinary meeting (26th April 2024) to be approved.

No objections

Agenda item 5 – Presentation #1

Presentation on 'Prevention of On-Farm Poisoning' by Stuart McAdam, Head of Incidents and Resilience, Food Standards Scotland. Followed by Q&A.

Agenda item 6 – Presentation #2

Presentation on 'Proposal to introduce legislation in Scotland to prohibit the sale and advertisement of low-welfare animal activities abroad' by Jessica Terry, External Affairs Manager, and Katheryn Wise, UK Campaigns Manager for Animals in the Wild, both from World Animal Protection. Followed by Q&A.

Agenda item 7 – MSP Update

Maggie Chapman MSP: discussed recent work of REVIVE including a protest at Dundee Airport 12th August, which Maggie attended, to mark the beginning of the grouse shooting season, targeting tourists flying to Dundee to partake in blood sports.

Christine Grahame MSP: Welfare of Dogs Bill (Christine's Member's Bill) is due to be heard at Rural Affairs Committee for stage 2 on Wednesday 18th September.

XL Bully legislation – Christine had topical question on this this week and continues to challenge.

[Colin & Maurice had to leave early]

Agenda item 8 – AOB

Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind – point re Minister refusing to meet re farrowing crates. Christine to follow up with Kirsty directly later.

Agenda item 9 - Next meeting

Suggestions for future presentations:

Lee-Anne Howieson, Dogs Trust – offered to do presentation on dog microchipping in conjunction with Phil McKinnon from the Association of Microchip Database Operators (AMDO).

Alice Palombo – suggested also a discussion on cat microchipping, which she is happy to lead.

Jack Barton, British Horseracing Authority – offered to do presentation on equine welfare/ HorsePWR.

Agreed to use hybrid format for next meeting too.

Wednesday 4th December 2024

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP (SNP)
Maggie Chapman MSP (Scottish Green Party)
Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour)

Invited Guests

Phil McKinnon, Association of Microchip Database Operators
Stefan Blakiston Moore, Cats Protection

Non-MSP Group Members

Alex
Amanda Doves
Ben Hunt, Animal Equality UK
Chris
David Field, Edinburgh Zoo
Edna Elliot-McColl
Elena Edwards, Animal Concern
Dr Elspeth Stirling, Scottish Badgers
Hannah Orr, SRUC
Henry Dixon-Clegg
Jacob Lloyd, Animal Welfare Investigations Project
Jane Stirling
John Burns, World Horse Welfare
Jordan McCay
Katie Maguire
Keith Marley, New Arc Wildlife Rescue
Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind
Leanne McPake, World Horse Welfare
Lee-Anne Howieson, Dogs Trust
Libby Anderson
Lynda Holton (Secretary)
Nicola White, Humane Society International/UK
Paul Reynolds, New Arc Wildlife Rescue / British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
Scott Fryer, Battersea
Zofia Bekas

Agenda item 1 – Apologies

Tess White MSP
Maurice Golden MSP
Dr Elizabeth Ormerod, Chair of The Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS)
Sarah Johnston, Edinburgh Dog & Cat Home
Jake Swindells, Countryside Alliance
Romain Pizzi
Dan Jarvis, British Divers Marine Life Rescue
Helene Mauchlen, British Horse Society
The Kennel Club

Georgie Hancock, The Humane League
Natalie Harney, Nature Watch

Agenda item 2

Minutes of last meeting approved – no amendments or objections.

Agenda item 3

Presentation: 'Navigating the Microchip Database Network' by Phil McKinnon, Association of Microchip Database Operators (slides provided for circulation with minutes).

Q&A

- Christine Grahame MSP: suggested combining microchipping databases with registration for dog ownership. Can she give Phil's contact details to the Minister for Communities? A: yes.
- Libby Anderson: other countries are moving towards a single register – why are they doing this and not us? A: some countries have taken this approach when they have set up microchipping e.g. Hungary's single database run by the veterinary association.
- Jacob Lloyd, Animal Welfare Investigations Project: concerns about microchip databases owned by convicted puppy dealers making it onto certified list. Are you making it harder to set up a database? A: yes, can report to AMDO and they can escalate to DEFRA.
- Colin Smyth MSP: not sold on not having a single database. Will it definitely be one single point of search? A: for vets, etc they would only need a single SPoS but for customers they would need to access the individual database as it would be too complex to make this into a single point.
- Scott Fryer, Battersea: we are finding more foreign microchips as they can be bought in bulk online; important that whole animal welfare sector can identify where these animals should be. Scot Gov can access the consultation info gathered by DEFRA. A: key aspect of SPoS is to ensure no duplicate registrations.
- Christine: is there a role for certification to ensure it's a genuine database? A: could use a kite mark or similar thing e.g. Europetmart.

Agenda item 4

Supplementary presentation: 'Microchipping of Pet Cats' by Stefan Blakiston Moore, Cats Protection (slides provided for circulation with minutes).

Q&A

- Christine: noted that microchips can be used on your cat flap for security. When will SAWC report? A: not sure.
- Ellie, Scottish Badgers: previously took a petition to the Scottish Parliament on welfare of wildcats and domestic cats.
- Keith Marley, New Arc Rescue: question re farm cats and feral cats. A: no plans to include these at present.

Agenda item 5

MSP Update

Colin Smyth: paid tribute to the late Eddie Palmer, Chair of Scottish Badgers who recently passed away. Ban on use of snares – gathering outside Parliament recently to mark this. Acknowledged the hard work getting to this point. Awaiting several Members' Bills progressing so a bit of a lull on that front at the moment. Keeping an eye on land reform legislation.

Christine Grahame: Welfare of Dogs Bill at stage 3 and progressing. Wants to meet dog wardens to discuss issues around training and support. Where are we with shock collars? Not law yet. Christine will follow this up. Tried to reject the XL Bully legislation and failed. Has been putting down several Written Parliamentary Questions on the subject. Asked about stink pits? Libby Anderson advised these are associated with snares which are now banned but worth checking.

[Maggie Chapman had to leave the meeting early]

Agenda item 6 – Next meeting

British Horseracing Authority re equine welfare (agreed at last meeting but couldn't make today so will present at next meeting).

Other proposed speakers for discussion:

1. Suggested by Christine Grahame: **National Dog Warden Association** regarding training and lone working for Dog Wardens – discussed and agreed this could be one for the future but not for the next meeting.
2. Suggested by Maggie Chapman to discuss animal testing: **Camp Beagle** and/or **East Lothian Uncaged** – discussed and agreed this would be of interest as not something the CPG has had presentation on before. However, it was suggested that we also invite a representative from the Home Office/legislative side to attend in order to balance the discussion.
3. Approached us: **The University of Glasgow - Dr Ilyena Hirskey-Douglas**, Lecturer at School of Computing Science, on her work on providing interactive computer systems for pets and animals. Ilyena's work has designed systems that give highly social animals agency over their environment by allowing them to communicate with animals in other zoos – discussed and agreed that members needed more information before agreeing request to present. Further information on Ilyena's work is available here: <https://ilyena.com/>

Discussion on whether to hold meeting hybrid or online only going forward. Agreed to hold a couple of meetings per year in hybrid format to enable those who wish to attend in person to do so.

Feedback from Edinburgh Dog & Cat Home that holding meetings in evenings can be tricky as outside of normal working hours. However, it was noted that if meetings are to be held on Parliamentary business days (Tuesdays, Wednesdays or Thursdays) it has to be evenings to allow MSPs to attend as committees sit in the mornings and chamber business runs in the afternoons. Mondays and Fridays are also not ideal as MSPs have constituency business these days (MSP attendance is a priority to ensure meetings are quorate).

Agreed date of next meeting: Wednesday 5th March 2025 at 6pm (online only).

Agenda item 7 – AOB

Monica Lennon MSP's proposal for an Ecocide (Prevention) (Scotland) Bill is still open for MSP signatures (until next Wednesday). Given that this overlaps with many animal welfare issues, Monica felt it was important to bring to the attention of CPG members.

Question raised re media reports that dogs are now required to be on a leash in parts of London. Amanda Doves asking if this measure is likely to be introduced in Scotland. Scott Fryer's view was that this was very unlikely.

Wednesday 26th March 2025

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame (SNP)
Maurice Golden (Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party)
Colin Smyth (Scottish Labour)
Mark Ruskell (Scottish Green Party)

Invited Guests

Robin Mounsey, British Horseracing Authority
Maria Iriart, Camp Beagle

Non-MSP Group Members

Amanda Dovesi
Ben Hunt, Animal Equality UK
Cathy Dwyer, Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education
Chris, Justice for Reggie
Clare Andrews
David Gray
Delly Innes, Scottish Racing
Elena Edwards, Animal Concern
Gill Donn, Say No to Greyhound Racing in Scotland
Helene Mauchlen, British Horse Society
Jack Barton, British Horseracing

James Scott, British Deer Society
Jane Stirling
John Burns, World Horse Welfare
Jordan McCay, British Pest Control Association
Katharine Ross
Kim Ayling, World Horse Welfare
Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind
Leanne McPake, World Horse Welfare
Lee-Ann Howieson, Dogs Trust
Lynda Holton
Mike Flynn
Natalie Harney, Naturewatch
Ngaire Dennison
Patricia Colville, British Small Animal Veterinary Association
Richard McKeever
Sarah Dixon
Seonaig Johnston, Say No to Greyhound Racing in Scotland
Simon Wild, National Anti Snaring Campaign
Zofia Bekas

Agenda item 1 – Apologies

Dan Jarvis, British Divers Marine Life Rescue
Nigel Miller
Humane World for Animals UK
Dr Elspeth Stirling, Scottish Badgers
Robert Mcgeachy, Food Standards Scotland
Hannah Orr, SRUC
Jen Jackson, Edinburgh Dog & Cat Home
Paul Reynolds, New Arc Wildlife Rescue

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of last meeting to be approved.
No issues.

Agenda item 3 – Presentation on HorsePWR campaign by Robin Mounsey, Head of Communications, British Horseracing Authority. Followed by Q&A.

A range of questions were raised on topics including: enforcement; the campaign aims; data on non-fatal injuries; use of the whip; racehorse aftercare; race course design; traceability of retired racehorses; independence of the horse welfare board; stats on fatalities.

Agenda item 4 – Presentation on Camp Beagle's campaign to end animal testing by Maria Iriart, spokesperson for Camp Beagle. Followed by Q&A.

Copy of slides provided.

A range of questions were raised on topics including: alternatives to animal testing; Charles River facility in Tranent; beagles as a breed.

Noted that concerns about Charles River should be raised with your local MSPs. Christine also asked for information to be sent to her and she can share it with colleagues.

Agenda item 5 – MSP Update

Maurice Golden: hosted electric shock collars event yesterday in Parliament. Has put in amendment to 2020 Act which means ban must be implemented by 1st April. Dog Theft Bill first evidence session was at RAIC today, very positive evidence given and questioning. Stage 1 expected after summer.

Mark Ruskell: Greyhound racing bill will be introduced in Parliament end of April. No further dates as yet. Has been working with stakeholders but if anyone else wants to reach out, happy to do so.

Colin Smyth: hosted Dogs Trust event on various issues and OneKind on phasing out pig farrowing crates. WPQs on grouse moor licensing. Nature Scot has made significant change – instead of licensing for whole estate. Salmon farming debate – lack of progress since previous report.

Christine Grahame: Welfare of Dogs Act has been passed and obtained royal assent. Cross Border Pylons cutting across golden eagle project in the Tweed Valley. Happy to try again for Member's debate on pig farrowing crate with Colin.

Agenda item 6 – Next Meeting

Potential speakers/topics for next meeting:

1. Chartered Trading Standards Institute paper titled (Tackling) Animal Harm, which addresses critical gaps in animal welfare legislation and enforcement (agreed to circulate details to members by email for consideration first).
2. Suggested by Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind – farrowing crates.
3. Suggested by John Burns World Horse Welfare – equine ID.
4. Suggested by James Scott, British Deer Society – wild deer welfare.
5. Suggested by Ben Hunt, Animal Equality – salmon welfare.
6. Suggested by Amanda Doves – [City of Edinburgh Council's consultation regarding management rules in green and open spaces](#) (with a focus on restrictions to dogs' freedom).

As there are multiple suggestions for speakers at the next meeting, members agreed that the Secretary will circulate the list and take votes.

Date of next meeting: agreed on a Wednesday towards end of May/beginning of June – Wednesday 4th June?

Wednesday 18th June 2025

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP (Scottish National Party)
Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour Party)

Invited Guests

Caden Lunness
Stephanie Young

Non-MSP Group Members

Alan McDonnell, Trees for Life
Alastair George, British Veterinary Association
Alice Palombo, Cats Protection
Amanda Dovesi
Ben Hunt, Animal Equality UK
Chloe Barker, Blue Cross
Eloise Martin
Jane Stirling
Jennifer Jackson, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
John Burns, World Horse Welfare
Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind
Lee-Ann Howieson, Dogs Trust
Libby Anderson
Lynne Oldham, Justice For Reggie
Mike Flynn
Natalie Harney, Naturewatch
Phil McKinnon, AMDO
Richard McKeever
Rosina Robson, British Pest Control Association
Seonaig Johnston, Say No to Greyhound Racing in Scotland
Stewart Donald, Canine Concern Scotland Trust
Yann Prisner-Levyne, Edinburgh Napier University
Zofia Bekas

Agenda item 1 – Apologies

Maurice Golden MSP
Maggie Chapman MSP
Gill Donn, Say No to Greyhound Racing in Scotland
Robert McGeachy, FSS
Helen Mauchlen, British Horse Society
Tricia Colville, BVA (Alistair George attending in her place)
Jack Barton, British Horseracing Authority
Ross MacLeod, GWCT
Elena Edwards, Animal Concern

Jessica Milburn
Hannah Orr, SRUC
Dan Jarvis, British Divers Marine Life Rescue
Dr Elspeth Stirling

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of last meeting to be approved

Approved; no amendments

Agenda item 3 – Presentation

Presentation on the Chartered Trading Standards Institute paper '(Tackling) Animal Harm' by Caden Lunness, Policy & Public Affairs Executive, and Steph Young, Lead Officer for Animal Welfare – both from the Chartered Trading Standards Institute.

Followed by Q&A.

Copy of presentation provided (will circulate to members). Caden is happy for members to contact them direct with enquiries on cadenl@tsi.org.uk.

Agenda item 4 – MSP Update

Colin Smyth MSP (verbal update given, followed up with written update copied below):

I recently hosted a drop-in event in Parliament on exotic pet welfare with OneKind, the Scottish SPCA and Born Free, marking the launch of their new report and “Don’t Pet Me” campaign. The report highlights the scale of exotic pet ownership in Scotland and the serious welfare issues it causes. The campaign is calling for a ‘positive list’ of permitted species, tighter regulation and enforcement, a ban on wild-caught animal imports, and better public education.

I’ve also lodged Parliamentary Questions on species-specific licences issued by NatureScot to Forestry and Land Scotland — focusing on what species are covered, the licence purposes, and whether third parties are involved, raising questions about oversight and accountability.

In addition, I’ve asked what compliance monitoring NatureScot carried out during the 2024 grouse shooting season, and what is planned for 2025, given continued concerns over enforcement of the new licensing regime.

And following footage of discarded fish on the seabed, I’ve asked the Government what checks are made before public funding is given to vessels or companies with previous breaches of environmental rules.

Christine Grahame MSP:

Continuing to support Mark Ruskell MSP with his Greyhound Racing Bill.

On the matter of Charles River/testing on Beagles which was raised at the last meeting, MSP members of the CPGAW met recently to discuss. They agreed to write to SSPCA to request a meeting; the SSPCA have accepted the request and we are in the process of arranging a date.

Agenda item 5 – AOB

1. Seonaig Johnston, Say No to Greyhound Racing in Scotland

Raised concern over greyhound trainers not having correct animal transport licences and microchipping of dogs regulations.

2. Lee-Ann Howieson, Dogs Trust

Raised the Dogs Trust renters' rights campaign. More information can be found here: [No one should have to choose between a home and a pet | Dogs Trust](#)

Agenda item 6 – Next Meeting

Agreed on Wednesday 17th September at 6pm.

Presentation topics for this meeting will be as follows:

1. Farrowing crates, as suggested by Kirsty Jenkins, OneKind (this was the topic with the second highest number of votes from the poll circulated after the last meeting).
2. The [City of Edinburgh Council's consultation regarding management rules in green and open spaces](#) (with a focus on restrictions to dogs' freedom), as suggested by Amanda Dovesi (this was the topic with the third highest number of votes from the poll circulated after the last meeting).

New suggestions were made for future meetings as follows:

1. Alan McDonnell, Trees for Life, suggested beaver welfare concern.
2. Lynne Oldham, Justice for Reggie, suggested the JFR campaign fighting for the regulation and control of the illegal breeding and selling of dogs and puppies online.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Christine Grahame, Scottish National Party

Maurice Golden, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Maggie Chapman, Scottish Green Party

Emma Harper, Scottish National Party

Meghan Gallacher, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Marie McNair, Scottish National Party

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals	Christine Nevin Edna Elliot-McColl Dr Elspeth Stirling Seonaig Johnston Jane Stirling Romain Pizzi Elaine Henley Tracy Lygo George Leslie Nigel Miller Allan Sim Paul Michael Reynolds BSc (Hons), MSc Co-Manager of New Arc Wildlife Rescue and Chair of the British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council
Organisations	National Wildlife Crime Unit Naturewatch Foundation Network for Animals Nourish Scotland One Kind PDSA Perth and Kinross Council Rabbits Require Rights Rabbit Welfare Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland Against Greyhound Exploitation (SAGE) Scotland's Rural College Scottish Badgers Scottish Countryside Alliance Scottish Government (Rural and Environment Directorate) Scottish Kennel Club Scottish Land and Estates Scottish Racing Scottish Rural and Agricultural College Scottish Salmon Producers Org (SSPO) Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals The Kennel Club The Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) University of Aberdeen University of St Andrews

	Weimaraner Rescue Whale and Dolphin Conservation World Animal Protection World Horse Welfare University of Glasgow British Egg Industry Council Humane World for Animals UK Association of Microchip Database Operators (AMDO)
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GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Christine Grahame MSP
Deputy Convener	Maurice Golden MSP Maggie Chapman MSP Emma Harper MSP
Secretary	Lynda Holton
Treasurer	N/A

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

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SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP	
Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.	
N/A	
CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS	
Name	Christine Grahame MSP
Parliamentary address	M4.02 The Scottish Parliament EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5729