

# **MINUTE**

## **Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare**

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 @ 18:00 (via MS Teams)

### **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  
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](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.