Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare Meeting
6.00pm Tuesday 5th June 2018
AGM

Present:
MSPs
Christine Grahame MSP (Convener)
Alison Johnstone MSP

Associate Members
Adam Reed University of St Andrews
Alison Craig Napier University
Anna Wade Blue Cross
Becky Thwaites Blue Cross
Bryn Tennant SAC Consulting
Diane Bain
Dick Morrison Scottish Kennel Club
Elspeth Stirling
Fraser Lamb SACS
Jamie Stewart SCA
Jane Stirling Napier University
Jennifer Terris Dogs Trust
John Bruce British Deer Society
Karen Gray Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
Libby Anderson OneKind
Micheal Park APHA
Neil Hudson BEVA
Nicolle Hamilton BASC
Patricia Saluja University of Aberdeen
Penny Middleton NFUS
Peter McDonald Horse Rescue Scotland
Peter Stevenson Compassion in World Farming
Rhona O’Malley Advocates for Rabbit Welfare
Sarah Allen OneKind
Sarah Moyes OneKind
Sue Whittle Compassion in World Farming
Tricia Colville BVA

Apologies
Gillian Martin MSP Rona Mackay MSP
Emma Harper MSP Colin Smyth MSP
Andrew Blake West Lothian Council
Ashley Farquarson Perth and Kinross Council
Cathy Dwyer Edinburgh University
Charles Everitt NWCU
David Woofries Stirling Council
Haley Atkin BVA
Howard Bridges Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
Kevin Flack IFAW
Kirsteen McKenzie Perth and Kinross Council
Mike Flynn SSPCA
Pete Ritchie Nourish
Richard Clare Cats Protection
Seonaig Johnston Greyhound Welfare
Tracy Sheills Cats Protection

Allan Sim Edna Elliot-McColl
Elizabeth Omerod George Leslie
Mauvis Gore Nigel Miller
1. Introductions

The Convener (CG) opened the meeting and invited members to introduce themselves.

2. Apologies

CG intimated apologies as listed above.

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Letter from Cabinet Secretary

The convenor expressed disappointment that the Cabinet Secretary had declined to meet the cross party group MSPs. Members agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary to request a timeline for legislative change.

5. Animal Sentience

Peter Stevenson (PS) Compassion for World Farming gave a presentation on the issues surrounding sentience.

In anticipation of Brexit it is essential that Article 13 where animals are recognised as sentient is incorporated. Scotland needs a clear independent approach. Sentience does not fit into the Good Food Nation Bill – it require a unique piece of legislation.

Colin Smyth (CS) explained that sentience is included in the EU Continuity Bill that is now being challenged by the Supreme Court

Libby Anderson (LA) added all regulations and directives to be incorporated in UK law. The implication being that sentience will be implicit in legislation where OneKind and Compassion want it to be explicit.

CS to draft a letter asking if the EU continuity Bill is sufficient to cover animal sentience.

6. Fish Welfare

OneKind gave a presentation on farmed salmon.

Scotland is the world’s 3rd largest salmon producer and the Scottish Government has a target of increasing output by a third. There are unacceptably high levels of mortality. Statistics obtained from the Fish Health Inspectorate indicate that stress, injuries and sea lice are significant problems. The methods being used to tackle these problems also have welfare implications (cleaner fish, thermodicer etc.) OneKind would like more research carried out.

Tricia Colville BVA highlighted that there is a Fish Health Welfare working group and any information should be fed in to them.
Michale Park APHA explained that the Fish Health Inspectorate have vets who are trained in fish health and can take enforcement action under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007.

7. Cat Neutering

The petition regarding the issue is going through the Scottish Parliament

NH to circulate the presentation to the group

8. Future meetings

Racehorse welfare – Scottish Racing

Rabbit Welfare Guidance Implementation – Advocates for Rabbit Welfare

Greyhound welfare

9. Date of next meeting

Tuesday 23rd October 2018