

MINUTE

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

Wednesday 11th September 2024 @ 5.30pm
(hybrid - TG20-21 and MS Teams)

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.