



28th September 2018 11am-1pm

Location: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, London

Present: Chris Laurence (Chair), Richard Hooker (PDSA) (Vice Chair), Mike Webb (Battersea Dogs & Cats Home), David Bowles (RSPCA), Sam Gaines (RSPCA) David Cavill (PETBC), Claire Calder (Dogs Trust), Charley Longster (Dogs Trust), Nigel Baker (PIF), Alex Baker (PIF), Bill Lambert (Kennel Club), Ed Hayes (Kennel Club), Caroline Peacock (Guide Dogs), Steve Crow (GCCF), Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection), Becky Thwaites (Blue Cross), Vicki Adams (ALiKC), Anne McBride (ABCT), Mayank Seth (AHT), Adrienne Conroy (BSAVA), Ian Ramsey, (BSAVA) Rachel Matthew (ALiKC), Pam Gee (BiGA), Zoe Duffy (BiGA), Heidi Anderton (BiGA), Nicole Parven (PFMA), David Grimsell (DBRG), Carol Fowler (DBRG)

1. Welcome and introductions

Chris introduced the AGM and reviewed the previous year as being busy but strategic and had seen progress particularly with the introduction of the new Animal Licensing Regulations and Guidance documents which CFSG had had enormous input into and which covered eight updated new or existing licensing activities. He noted the success of the second Big Tent meeting.

2. Apologies

Marisa Heath (Secretariat), Steve Goody (Blue Cross), Claire Bessant (iCatCare), Linda Cantle (Wood Green), Claire Horton (BDCH), Paula Sparks (ALAW)

3. Minutes of previous meeting (attached)

Agreed with correction that Maggie Roberts (CP) attended and she confirmed on page 3 that CP were not unhappy with getting pet vending licensed but had reservations on how it would work with fosterers. The minutes were then signed with these corrections.

4. AGM Business

(i) Election of Vice Chair - all agreed that the Vice Chair can be from within any existing group represented at CFSG but needed to be neutral so if elected needed another representative to represent their organisation. It was also confirmed that the Chair was neutral and not affiliated to any organisation. RH confirmed he was stepping down and CL asked for nominations of Vice Chair to be sent to him.

(ii) Finance report: received and agreed as a true account. Guide Dogs confirmed they had now paid. It was agreed that the accounts showed a healthy balance and that a decision on future expenditure for 2019, such as publicity on the new licensing laws, needed to be taken at the December meeting.

(iii) Report of 2017/8 received and agreed as a true record. CL paid tribute to all the work that had occurred on licensing and said Defra now saw CFSG as their natural partner. MH thanked for all her work on this issue. On future work streams, BiGA asked for the status on the dog groomers code and why they had yet to be invited to comment. NB confirmed that the Goomers' Working Group had only had one meeting to date and that the draft would be circulated to BiGA for comment.

It was agreed that the Kitten Checklist as agreed at the last meeting, would need to be looked at again depending on the results of the Government consultation on 3rd party sales ban.

5. Matters arising

CFSG Working Groups Update

a). Kitten Breeding Code of Practice Working Group (SC (Cat Fancy), BDCH, CB (ICat), Blue Cross, RSPCA, BVA, MR (CP))

The Kitten Breeding CoP Cat Group has finished Draft 1 and this will be circulated to the December CFSG meeting for approval.

b) Responsible Dog Ownership Working Group (CL, MH, BL/EH (KC), MW (BDCH), SG (RSPCA), BT (Blue Cross), NP (PFMA), Charley Longster (DT), Vicki Betton (PDSA), Sarah Bartrip

Paper was accepted and it was noted that Defra has only committed £100,000 over two years to a responsible dog ownership campaign and in Scotland the Scottish Government was launching its own £500,000 campaign in October.

c) Dog and Cat Grooming Code of Practice WG (NB/AB PiF, SG (RSPCA), MR (CP), PG/SG (BiGA))

First draft completed and will be circulated to BiGA for comment and then the wider membership

d) Dog Breeding and Conformation WG (AC (BSAVA), Trevor Cooper ((BDCH), BL (KC), Catherine Doobie (DT)

It was agreed that the scope would start with dogs and then go on to other problems in other species. KC was aware of the need to prevent duplication with other work streams. RSPCA asked to be on this WG and AS would get back. The Group to circulate a scope for the minutes

e) Rabies Core Group

CC reported back on behalf of Paula Boyden. The compensation issue had still not been resolved and would be discussed at the next meeting. There was discussion around the issue of whether to give oral vaccination to feral cats or not. It was noted that the vaccine was not currently licenced.

f) Illegal imports WG

CL introduced the paper which was agreed. It was noted that the SSPCA had a group regularly meeting in Scotland on illegal imports and that the Scottish Government will launch a campaign in the autumn on puppy buying and illegal imports. It was noted that the UK Government no deal paper was published this week which gave scenarios for dog and cat movements under a no deal Brexit.

It was agreed that a note should be circulated of the ToR and membership of all the Working Groups and this to be placed on the CFSG website.

6. Licensing of Rehoming centres and Sanctuaries Working group (Paula Boyden (DT); SG (RSPCA); MW (BDCH), LC (Wood Green), Maggie Roberts (CP)

CC reported back on behalf of Paula Boyden. The Group had a Draft 2 which updated a previous document. It was agreed that consistency should be applied to work occurring on the same issue in Wales and Scotland work. In light of that the WG had agreed a definition based on the Wales definition. It was agreed that there needed more work on species other than dogs and cats which could go into Guidance. There was discussion around who was covered. It was agreed there needed to be a balance between burden and standards and so it was important that the Guidance was reviewed every 5 years. There was a discussion over breed clubs and it was agreed that the CoP should cover any establishment of any size and that volunteers and fosterers were covered. Spot checking could be a way forward to prevent over burdensome regulations but this was a policy decision that needed to be taken by Defra. The next version would cover cats and dogs kept for all their lives in sanctuaries. It was confirmed that the local authorities would be responsible for licensing. A next draft would be circulated for the December meeting.

7. Third Party Sales consultation

The CFSG submission was noted (closing date had passed). It was agreed that the next steps on behaviour change campaigns had to wait for Defra announcement, expected by year end.

8. Associate Members Reports

(i) DBRG. DG introduced his paper asking for a Code of Practice on breeding to inform breeders, courts and the public. There was a discussion on whether this applied to all species and it was agreed that this is about preventing and stopping reckless and negligent breeding. IR pointed out that gene editing and new technology meant this was a fast evolving area and created problems on interpreting the word reckless. All supported a Code of Practice as a first step and then consideration of making a recommendation for statutory regulations would be debated at a later date. MR pointed out that she had started a CoP on cat breeding and can introduce language on reckless breeding into this. It was agreed to start the CoP on dog breeding under the 2018/9 programme.

(ii) BiGA: HA reported back that they had nine people on their expert panel and it was agreed that a report would be ready for the December meeting

(iii) ALiKC PG asked if there was training of inspectors for the new regulations; CC confirmed that DT had to date trained some 320 inspectors on issues such as boarding and dog care. NB noted that any present licenses lasted until the end of the year so October 1 would only be the start of the new process and it would take some time for any local authority discrepancies to arise in licencing.

(iv) ALAW were not present but DB pointed out that Defra's work on Sentience was now moving again, after being detached from the Sentencing part of the Animal Welfare Bill and a new draft was expected by beginning of 2019. ALAW were meeting Defra in October and could report back at a further meeting.

7. AOB:

- a) It was noted that the electric shock collar ban did not cover fences or anti bark collars
- b) It was noted that differences in standards arising from devolution was still a problem to be overcome and that a meeting should be set up between the Chairs of CFSG, Animal Welfare Network Wales (Wales), the SSPCA (Scotland) and USPCA (Ulster).
- c) AMc noted that there was a public consultation on assistance dogs and access partnerships for all to note.

END