



AGENDA

11th June 2018 11am-1pm

Location: Board Room, The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, London

Present: Mike Webb (Battersea), Rob Quest (City of London), Becky Thwaites (Blue Cross), Mayank Seth (AHT), Claire Calder (Dogs Trust), Bill Lambert (Kennel Club), Steve Crow (GCCF), Linda Cantle (Woodgreen), Paula Boyden (Dogs Trust), Ian Ramsey (BSAVA), Alex Baker (PIF), Richard Hooker (PDSA), Nigel Baker (PIF), Adrienne Conroy (BSAVA), Claire Horton (AHWBE), Chris Laurence (CFSG), David Bowles (RSPCA)

2. Apologies – David Cavil (PetBC), Caroline Peacock (Guide Dogs), Anne McBride (ABTC)

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Members approved the minutes

4. Matters arising

i) Defra Licensing Regulations Update

Pet sales information

There is a requirement within the new Regulations to provide information to the buyers of pets on how to care for their animals. Currently there are a number of different advice leaflets and information being provided and some groups are seeking to establish one set piece of literature which can be used. Members discussed the benefits of having one single point of information but also the complexity in agreeing that amongst the various stakeholders. It was agreed that any such information needs content which is tailored for the audience it is aimed at which may vary and would not be as simple as a leaflet. Members felt a focus point resource to direct people to would be useful and that the first set of information on purchase would be a topline summary of the cat and dog welfare codes.

Inspector training

The Institute of Licensing are doing some one-day training City of London are doing 6 one-day training days to introduce the Regulations around the country. There are still some outstanding issues around the potential ban on third party sales and how to tackle the loopholes of rehoming centres and sanctuaries which may be importing

dogs and re-homing them for a set fee. The Scope under the Regulations does set out that earning any commission or fee is part of the requirement to have a licence.

Members felt that in principle rehoming centres and sanctuaries should be licensed but that it would need to be separate guidance and would need to incorporate the unique factors around rehoming which are very different to a commercial activity. Scotland are already looking at licensing sanctuaries and it was recognised that the ADCH guidelines are already adopted and used by many centres operating to their standards. Members agreed to discuss this with the Defra team.

ii) International Declaration of Responsibility to Cats

This document was presented to CFGS as a way to obtain collaboration both inside and outside the UK and a basis for cat welfare projects outside of the UK to persuade different organisations to come together and use best practice. CFGS endorsed the document.

Kitten Checklist

The CFGS Cat Group have been working on a checklist as their alternative to the Puppy Contract. The checklist seeks to guide potential kitten buyers towards buying a healthy kitten which has been responsibly bred. Members were very impressed with the document and agreed to endorse it

iv) Rabies Core Group

There is ongoing consultation on the exotic disease contingency plan which is the overarching document covering all notifiable disease. OIE changed their advice on rabies vaccinations so Public Health England have been reviewing and will reissue their green book next month.

5. Big Tent Outcomes

Members discussed the feedback from attendees at the Big Tent meeting and went over the notes from the meeting. That document can be seen on the CFGS website. Members discussed the key issues arising and noted any new concerns which had been raised including those around pet theft. There was a view the Sentencing Council which are a non-governmental department are able to review sentencing and can influence what factors should be taken into account around pet theft. The Dogs Trust have written to the Sentencing Council.

6. Working Groups Update

The Cat Group will be starting to draft its Code of Practice for Cat Breeding shortly.

A draft has been written on Standards for Groomers. Canine Hydrotherapy will be a separate document.

The draft on licensing of sanctuaries and re-homing centres will be in the same format as the AAL Regulation and Guidance and will also be based around ADCH guidelines.

CFSG has set out its outline position on the Dangerous Dogs Act through the EFRA Select Committee procedure but will write a more comprehensive paper on how it needs to be changed and why as a key position statement.

Work has started on the Breeding Health group and Terms of Reference need to be written first to see where the work will fit alongside other work being done by groups like Vet Compass.

END