



**MINUTES**  
**MEETING OF THE CANINE AND FELINE SECTOR GROUP**  
**HELD AT THE DOGS TRUST**  
**ON MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014 AT 2.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

Prof Sheila Crispin	(SC)	Advisory Council on the Welfare Issues of Dog Breeding
Claire Horton	(CH)	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home
Michael Webb	(MW)	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home
Katie McConnell	(KM)	BSAVA
Jacqui Cuff	(JC)	Cats Protection
Paula Boyden	(PB)	Dogs Trust
Steve Crow	(SC GCCF)	GCCF
Prof Steve Dean	(SD)	Chairman
Rosemary Smart	(RS)	Kennel Club
Richard Hooker	(RH)	PDSA
Meriel France	(MF)	Pet Industry Federation
Marisa Heath	(MH)	Secretariat
Carol Warner	(CW)	Guide Dogs
David Bowles	(DB)	RSPCA

**ITEM 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Thanks to the Dog's Trust for facilitating the meeting at such short notice owing to flooding at the Kennel Club

**ITEM 2. APOLOGIES**

Mark Vaudin	Animal Health Trust
Steve Goody	Blue Cross
James White	Guide Dogs
Claire Bessant	International Cat Care
Jan McLoughlin	PDSA
Nigel Baker	Pet Industry Federation
Clive Byles	Woodgreen

**ITEM 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record.

## **ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING**

### **1) a. CFSG Secretariat role -**

The newly appointed secretariat was welcomed to the role.

### **b. Future Working Process –**

CFSG now has an operational website and secretariat. These two tools need to sit centrally to all members and should be available to promote and develop the work of CFSG with the consensus of the members.

### **c. Bank Account & Constitution**

CFSG will have a bank account within the next two weeks and the secretariat will act as Treasurer updating the Group on financial matters at each meeting. Members agreed the CFSG constitution which is required for the bank account.

### **ii) Website & Logo**

The new CFSG website was presented. There is a public front facing site which sets out what CFSG is, who are members and any public documents. Members were given a choice of 9 logos for CFSG designed by Battersea. A logo was unanimously chosen.

### **iii) EU Pet Travel Consultation**

The end document which had been submitted to the Defra consultation in September was shared between members. It is a public document and will be on the website.

### **iv) Rabies Working Group**

Update on the Defra Core Group. Key concerns around rabies and pet travel with the importation of puppies and kittens across borders. There were also concerns about the number of quarantine kennels available and about what the process would be in the event of an outbreak. Public Health England attended and are engaging in the work.

### **v) House of Commons Debate on Sale of Puppies & Kittens**

Well-attended debate which covered breeding, sale and importation of puppies and kittens. Defra Minister, George Eustice MP, clarified that whilst it is widely believed that a licence is only required for people who breed five or more litters a year, actually regardless of the number of litters bred, if someone wishes to sell puppies they require a licence. The Minister promised to see that all local authorities would receive guidance on legislation to inform them of the proper interpretation of the 'five litter threshold'. Rob Ffello MP is going to do likewise. Mr Eustice reiterated that existing regulations should be worked with.

### **i) Strategy**

The CFSG risk grid has been drawn up. Obesity is highlighted by everybody as being important as has the puppy trade, lack of enforcement, inherited diseases and decent population information. Once

the grid is finished the CFSG strategy will be designed.

#### **ITEM 5: ASB ACT GUIDANCE**

Act comes into force shortly and there are still concerns with the practitioner's manual. However it is wise to wait for a few months to see how it works and after the elections have passed. CFSG will pick it up again in the spring.

#### **ITEM 6: ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON LEGISLATION**

See below link for detail of the recommendations as considered at the meeting:

[http://www.dogadvisorycouncil.com/resources/Advice\\_on\\_legislation.pdf](http://www.dogadvisorycouncil.com/resources/Advice_on_legislation.pdf)

Government asked the Advisory Council to do this paper and said they would reply formally shortly in September 2013 but no response as yet. It aims to make legislation more effective and light touch with no new primary legislation. CFSG will take this issue forward.

#### **ITEM 7: THE WELFARE OF CATS BILL**

The bill was introduced by Lord Black in discussion with Cats Protection and others. The European Commission is doing a report on commercial breeding of cats and dogs and PAAG is providing evidence on moggy sales which currently have no regulations or standards. Charities are inundated with unwanted cats and kittens. The cat sector can move forward by putting together the bullet points and principles that would work within a code and then put it forward to the AHWB through the CFSG. Microchips for cats be something to consider and promoting controls on cat breeding. More evidence is needed and CFSG members should work together to collate this via a working group.

#### **ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

##### **i) APGAW subgroup**

The subgroup has completed a draft of a politically led report due to be published by APGAW before Christmas. The report contains 21 recommendations which all members have signed up to and a lot of the focus is on resource and enforcement.

##### **ii) CFSG Matrix**

CH suggested that it would be useful for a matrix to be drawn up setting out the working groups and issues clearly for members and those interested in the work of the CFSG

#### **ITEM 9: DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

26<sup>th</sup> January 1300hrs

