



14th December 2018 11am-1pm

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

1. Welcome
2. Apologies – Steve Goody (Blue Cross) Anne McBride (ABTC), Claire Horton (AHWBE)
2. Minutes of previous meeting (paper attached) Agreed
3. Election of Vice Chairman - Paula Boyden (DT) elected
4. Matters Arising

a) Working Group Updates

i. Kitten Breeding Code of Practice Group Update –The first draft is currently being written and will be ready by March for comments and input.

ii. Responsible Dog Ownership Working Group Update - A lot of interest from politicians and civil servants in this work they see it as one of the relevant factors around the third party ban. CFGS would want to look at the wider issues such as acquisition of a puppy and general aspects of dog control. CFSG chair and secretariat were supposed to see the Minister in January and will discuss the funding for a campaign on puppy acquisition. It is felt that Defra should put forward at least £300k as well to match the Scottish commitment. It is recognised that there have been a lot of campaigns such as “always see the mother” or “pick up after your dog” but there is a resistant section of society to whom the messaging is not getting through so we need to consider how to achieve this which will involve input from those with behavioural change expertise. CP have been using human behaviour change techniques around community cats with various pilot areas and it has been very successful but it is intensive work. They have found that as well as putting messages out there is also a need to remove barriers and facilitate things. Any campaign or key message needs to be repeated and it may be better without organisation branding. Responsible dog ownership is complex so it needs clear one statement at a time so a series of campaigns could work better.

iii. Dog & Cat Grooming Code of Practice Working Group Update – The working group have been talking to BIGA to get their input which has been factored in. There is now a first draft to come before CFSG shortly for discussion.

iv. Dog Breeding & Conformation Working Group Update - All member confirmed and an initial meeting has been held to set out the way forward with a second meeting planned.

v. Potential licensing of Re-homing centres - Members of CFSG met with Defra in November to discuss the need to close loopholes to support a third party ban of which licensing re-homing centres could be one. Discussion continue and there is wide awareness that it needs to be considered carefully. It is not known how many sanctuaries and rehoming centres are out there which makes it difficult to set out the risks. Some organisations may not be able to come up to these standards but lower standards for welfare cannot be set for people working under the auspices of welfare. Communication with industry and those affected by the changes will need to be thorough. ADCH will work with Defra to host a workshop for small rescues and sanctuaries in Birmingham in April.

5. Defra Update: Imports, Third Party Ban, Ministerial Meeting

The Ministerial meeting scheduled for 12th December was postponed and now rescheduled for January. Points to take to the Minister include the funding for any campaign or programme around puppy buying and responsible dog ownership, the need for focused and narrow targeting in any such campaign, registration of dog breeders and measures required to support a third party ban.

6. Brexit paper

There will be a few touchtone issues which will hit people in due course and moving cats and dogs will be one of them. NOAH would like to add veterinary capacity and medicine availability as would BSAVA. Priority access on shorter life medicines to be the same for veterinary as human and in the longer term it is important to avoid becoming a second wave country where cats and dogs will not get innovation in medicines so a regulatory climate that will facilitate that is needed.

END