



MINUTES

Friday 14^h June 2019 11am-1pm

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

1. Welcome

2. Apologies

3. Minutes of previous meeting

Agreed

4. Matters Arising

a) Dog Breeding & Conformation Working Group Update (AC verbal)

Second meeting held with progress made now, Members have recognised it is a big piece of work and it will take time to shape.

b) Cat Breeding Working Group Update (MR verbal)

CP and ICAT talked to GCCF to produce a draft and the third version has now gone out to wider group so it will be ready for CFSG wider members to review in the autumn.

c) Rabies Core Group/Zoonotic Disease Update (PB verbal)

The Core Group has been put on hold with Brexit but now just had dates for next meeting in October. The key thing was looking at various scenarios and the serious outbreak scenario. The whole issue of imports seems to be getting more traction, BALLOI figures have been released by a PQ showing 32,000 came in so a 2% rise, The biggest country for imports is still Romanian which is going up whilst other countries remain stable. APHA are still not enforcing it as they should and CFSG should write to them asking for improvement on this.

5. AAL Review (timeline attached)

DEFRA Will look at the AAL Guidance in the Autumn and have asked CFSG to lead the work. This will not include the actual Regulations. CFSG will establish working groups for each activity relevant to the group and will go through the Guidance line by line and talk about where there have been issues. There are two separate issues; first is the guidance appropriate and second, is the application by the local authorities right? The guidance, if applied with commonsense, would be fine but that is not happening all of the time and this needs to be investigated and improved. Associate members will be involved in the work and then a wider Big Tent meeting will be held to get the views of wider stakeholders. During the summer there will be desk exercise done by MH to check consistency and pull out the key issues and then the meetings will start in September.

6. Devolved Issues Updates

Devolution has not entirely solved animal welfare issues as we have different rules between the administrations. Chairman now liaises with CVOs in Scotland and Wales and CFSG remains committed to sharing information across the administrations to ensure consistency and best practice.

7. Third Party Ban Update

a) Consequence of a 3rd Party Ban

The Chairman drafted a policy paper on the impact of the third party ban to seek to close the existing loopholes which will lead to people getting around the ban. The legislation is half way through process of ratification in Parliament and there are three key questions – who is going to enforce it, what will happen to existing animals and what will happen to the trade in general. CFSG will seek to monitor the impact through member's work on the underground puppy trade and ADCH are monitoring the rescue organisations to see if they are going to be inundated with breeding bitches. CFSG will send the paper to the Minister and will continue to push for the loopholes to be closed to ensure the ban is effective. A meeting with DEFRA is scheduled for July to discuss the ban.

8. Any other business

a) CFSG Chairmanship

The chairman's term ends in September. Members can put forward any nominations for the position by 1st September.

b) Responsible Dog Ownership

No actions have been taken by the CFSG working group as they are waiting for DEFRA on their campaign.

Sheepwatch, AHWBE and Rural Crime Team have set up their own group to do some work on responsible dog ownership and livestock worrying.

c) Kitten Checklist

The Cat working group are looking to launch it formally. It will be a soft launch which just lets people start to use it. Alongside that CFSG will still seek DEFRA endorsement to match the Puppy Contract.

d) Policy to protect offspring

DBRG are still keen to have a Code of Practice for dog breeding. CFSG did discuss it previously but felt the AAL guidance covered it. The CFSG Confirmation Working Group are also doing work on this area. The Cat Breeding Code of Practice includes confirmation so it would be worth sharing the cat one with DBCG So they can see what is being done there. A useful piece of work might be using elements of the AAL guidance to produce an understandable Code of Practice for Breeders who fall under the licensing threshold.

e) Events

DBRG have their annual conference on 6th October and tickets can be obtained via their website. MH will send the link out.

9. Next Main Meeting: 13th September