



MINUTES

15^h March 2019 11am-1pm

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

Present Chris Laurence (Chair); Paula Boyden (Vice Chair), David Bowles, Sam Gaines (RSPCA), Mike Webb (Battersea), Claire Calder (Dogs Trust) Adrienne Conroy Ian Ramsey (BSAVA), Ed Hayes (KC), Steve Goody (Blue Cross), Nigel Baker, Alexandra Baker (PiF), Anne McBride (ABTC), David Cavell (PETBC), Nicole Paley (PFMA), Alison Bleno (Guide Dogs), Linda Cattle (Wood Green), Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection), Sean Wensley (PDSA), Steve Crow (Cat Fancy)

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies** Richard Hooker (PDSA), Claire Bessant (ICC), Claire Horton (AHWBE)
3. **Minutes of previous meeting** (paper attached)
4. **Matters Arising**
 - a) **Working Group Updates**

i. Dog conformation

The chair reported back that the second meeting is being set up on conformation around the BSAVA conference.

ii. Rabies

On pet travel, Defra has confirmed that they are planning for no deal and Norway options and that the same passports and health certificate will be needed and are being printed. BSAVA confirmed that all vets received an email in the past week on this issue and that there should be enough OV's to do passporting and certification.

iii Cat Breeding Working Group

A new draft will be discussed at the next meeting on 9th April. The Kitten Checklist is still with Defra for approval.

iv. Brexit paper

This was agreed with minor amendments and can be circulated

v. Supply and demand of puppies

Discussion occurred around the lack of good data particularly in depth data around issues such as age profiles of people owning dogs and the importance of children in the market. It was noted that the LAIAR sets provision for local authorities to submit data to Defra so better data may increase as LAIAR is embedded.

There was discussion around what the demand is and should we accept the present level of demand. It was agreed that the focus should be on responsible demand. Discussion occurred on other externalities that could impact on pet owning. For instance; demand may be impacted by changes in accommodation such as the increased use of rented accommodation and the preponderance of younger people living in this accommodation. Cats Protection had issued a document on Perfect Landlords to encourage greater use of pets in rented accommodation.

There was discussion around the changes that will occur on supply and demand from the legislative changes due in the next year from the third party ban and the past year from the change in LAIAR.

5. First Draft Best Practice for Groomers

BIGA suggested through discussions with PIF that the five welfare needs have to be relevant to groomers. BSAVA reported on concerns around infectious disease being spread through groomers and the use of sedatives to groom animals. It was agreed that teeth cleaning was a veterinary procedure and so therefore should not be undertaken by groomers and this was to be made clear in the copy. Draft to be revised to capture these points.

6. DEFRA/CFSG Research & Data Group Proposal

Chairman and Secretariat were invited to meet the Defra research team. They have a clear focus on micro-chipping owing to the 5-year review later this year. During the discussion thought was given to collaboration to avoid organisations around the table duplicating research and also helping to share useful information. Members felt that simply agreeing common language would help record keeping too and felt that a research group would be helpful.

7. Update on Third Party Sales

The Welsh are consulting and the Scottish have already consulted on third party sales. Welsh Government are looking at regulation of rescues in Wales, they traditionally took the view that a Code of Practice was sufficient but that seems to be changing. A ban in Wales and Scotland to mirror England will help with enforcement of a ban.

8. Responsible Dog Ownership

a) 6-point plan

The work needs to be focused, well funded and well researched so the question is what do CFSG members want the RDO working group to concentrate on and take forward? There is the issue of the third party sales campaign and the general acquisition of dogs. CFSG are trying to get to the people who are resistant to the messaging as members have worked for years on messaging and there remains groups who are not responsive. Therefore, the RDO group needs to work out the target audience and what the area is on which they need to be influenced. People's understanding is generally good but lots of assumptions are made about what a responsible dog owner is. Members felt that the RDO group needed more clarity from Defra as to their intentions around the third party ban campaign before it did further work on acquisition of dogs but if there was money available for work in this area then that is where resource should be focused. It was felt that the

success of any such campaign would rely on wider organisations supporting it as £300k was not a large sum of money to get any real outcomes long-term.

10. Next Main Meeting: June 2019