CFSG
Canine & Feline Sector Group
MINUTES
16th June 2017 11am-1pm
Location: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, London

Present: Richard Hooker (PDSA), Professor Steve Dean (Chair), Claire Horton (AHWBE), Mike Webb (Battersea Dogs & Cats Home), David Bowles (RSPCA), David Cavill PETBC, Claire Calder (Dogs Trust), Ros Clubb (RSPCA), Nigel Baker (PIF), Alex Baker (PIF), Clare Williams (ADCH), Linda Cantle (Woodgreen), Michael Bellingham (PfMA), Alison Glennon (NOAH), Ed Hayes (Kennel Club), Steve Goody (Blue Cross), Mark Berry (NCAFG), Rob Quest (NCAFG), Carol Warner (Guide Dogs), Claire Bessant (ICatCare), Paula Boydon (Dogs Trust), Sue Murphy (AHT), Susan Dawson (BSAVA), Steve Crow (GCCF), Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection)

1. **Welcome and introductions**

New member - Alison Glennon NOAH

2. **Apologies**

Caroline Kisko (KC)

3. **Minutes of previous meeting** (attached)

Agreed

4. **Matters arising**

CFSG Working Groups Update

a). Cat Working Group

The Cat Group has been working on cat boarding schedules which has taken up a lot of resource. They are due to have a meeting on microchipping and are just about to finish the kitten checklist in July. Consideration will be given to launching it at the same time as the Puppy Contract launch which is at the Vet Show in November.

b) Zoonotic Disease Working Group

The Defra Rabies Core Group met in June where they looked to review the Rabies Contingency Plan. It was agreed to look at working through a small number of scenarios which will move it forward such as vehicles carrying multiple animals dropping them off at various points as it makes traceability difficult.

5.   Chairmanship & Vice-Chairmanship

The candidates include Chris Laurence MBE QVRM TD BVSC MRCVS, Robin Hargreaves BVSc, MRCVS and Dan O'Neil MVB BSc(hons) GPCert(SAP) GPCert(FelP) GPCert(Derm) GPCert(B&PS) MSc(VetEpi) PhD MRCVS. Chris Laurence was voted chairman for the coming year. Members were delighted at the high calibre of the candidates and thanked them all for their interest. The vote for the vice-chairman will take place in September.

 Members wished to record a note of thanks to Professor Steve Dean for his chairmanship. It was stated on behalf of the members that as a relatively new group Steve has given direction and support as well as encouraging debate bringing diverse and challenging opinions together. He had driven the need and an understanding to find the consensus needed to move issues on and make progress. The representation of CFSG in an external environment has been very credible and influential.

6.   Defra Licensing Work

CFSG were to meet in the afternoon with Defra and so were seeking views from CFSG members on the draft schedules and the work around them. It was stressed that the group needed to push on with the work as there was not much time before the Government becomes locked into Brexit.

It was confirmed that the regulations will refer to the guidance which means it is part of the legislation. The big advantage of not having it directly within the regulation is it does not have to go back to Parliament to amend the document. Members were pleased to hear this as it was recognised that the guidance would be very important to how the licensing was done and how higher standards could be met.

Members then went through each draft schedule making amendments and debating key points.

A diagram of the proposed risk based system was presented to provide members with an idea of how it is evolving. The aim is to encourage people to go to the higher welfare standards. Members discussed the fact that the critical thing will be whether the star rating becomes useful to the public and also the fact a number of dog breeders will fall outside of this if they do not meet the commercial level and how that will be factored into messaging.

7. AOB:

CFSG normally hold the Big Tent meeting in early November but as the intention is to use the meeting to discuss the licensing work with the wider stakeholders it was agreed it would be better to postpone it. Once the schedules and guidance are drafted CFSG would discuss with Defra a good time to have the Big Tent.