



**Canine & Feline Sector Group**

**MINUTES**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January 2017**

Location: The Kennel Club

**Attendees:**

Michael Bellingham MB (PfMA), Claire Calder CC (Dogs Trust), Becky Thwaites BT (Blue Cross), Steve Crow SC (GCCF), Claire Horton CH (BDCH), Mike Webb MW (BDCH), Sally Everitt SE (BSAVA), Caroline Kisko CK (Kennel Club), David Bowles DB (RSPCA), Mark Berry MB (NCAFG), Clare Williams CW (ADCH), Maggie Roberts MR (Cats Protection), Sue Murphy SM (AHT), Sam Gaines SG (RSPCA), Rob Quest RQ (City of London), Anne McBride AmB (ABTC), Richard Hooker RH (PDSA), Rebecca Garcia RG (Defra), Alexandra Baker AB (PIF), David Cavil DC (PETBC), Steve Dean SD (CFSG), Marisa Heath MH (CFSG)

**1. Welcome and introductions**

The chairman welcomed RG from Defra who was attending as an observer.

**2. Apologies**

Paula Boydon, Steve Goody, Sue Dawson

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

Agreed by members

**4. Matters arising**

**i) Membership**

Members decided that its membership renewals were due and would remain at the same cost as the previous year.

**ii) Re-homing Guide update from Local Authority input**

Members received feedback from the NCAFG, the local authority body, on how useable the document was and what would make it better. It had been suggested that a one-page synopsis

was put at the front with which members were happy. It was recognised that many local authorities use charities to rehome unclaimed dogs which was assuring as many would be using the ADCH guides, however there remain local authorities who re-home directly and need to understand some of the risks involved in not assessing a dog's behaviour fully and not taking steps to ensure safe re-homing. Members agreed the document was good but questioned how to ensure delivery of it to all relevant bodies. It was decided it would be sent out by NCAFG, sent to the LGA, sent to ADCH members and ALIKC and that CFSG would post it on the group's website as a start.

## ii) CFSG Working Groups Update

Rabies Working Group - The APHA now has an intelligence unit and will be establishing an intelligence database. Work continues around Brexit and Pet Travel.

Cat Group - The Group met in November to look at the Kitten Checklist where they had a discussion about breeding guidelines. They have spoken to Defra about kittens being 8 weeks before they are sold and subsequently they asked for evidence which is hard to find. The Kitten Checklist will include information on breed health issues and will be used for educating and getting the buyer to ask the right questions and research the breeds before they get a kitten.

## iii) GBGB BSI (PAS) for Trainers' Kennels Working Group

The CFSG representative attended two British Standards Institute (BSI)-led meetings to develop a Publicly Available Specification (PAS) for greyhound trainers' residential kennels. This process is being sponsored by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) that was directed by Defra to work with BSI to develop such a PAS following the recent Government review of the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010. A Steering Group has been established, comprising a range of stakeholders from the greyhound racing industry, a smaller number of welfare charity representatives. The Steering Group has reached sufficient consensus on the Scope of the PAS for a Technical Author to be commissioned to prepare a first draft, that will be reviewed at the next meeting in May. A public consultation will then follow in the summer and it is expected that the final PAS will be published in December and then be subject to biennial review. Once published, it is fully expected that the Greyhound Board of Great Britain will require the facilities used by the 700-odd greyhound trainers that it licences to comply with the PAS, with that inspection and licensing process to be subject to accreditation by UKAS.

## 5. Evaluation of Big Tent & Issues Arising

Members were notified that additional information was submitted following the Big Tent meeting by Julia Carr around the issue of selling puppies. The information was sent to members by email. Members went through the 3-point action plans which had been submitted by each group at the meeting and looked at ways in which they could be incorporated into the CFSG workstreams. There were a lot of areas in which CFSG could pick up the points and members decided to outline these in a follow up document to go out to attendees.

Members felt it was important to make clear that prioritisation is needed and that stakeholders needs to know that CFSG has to select work on the basis that it is achievable, and has an impact but that does not mean other issues are being ignored.

## **6. Licensing Proposal**

Defra informed members that they will be publishing their response to the Licensing Consultation in early February to which CFSG submitted a response on behalf of the membership and by working alongside the Local Authority group. Members were told that Defra is seeking to do some work to support the planned legislation which focuses on the deliverability and enforcement of new measures and subsequently need input from the sector. The proposal put to members was that the CFSG secretariat be seconded over to assist with this work supporting the NCAFG in delivering model conditions and guidance. Relevant CFSG members will be called into help with certain workstreams depending on their expertise. Members agreed that it was a hugely important piece of work and that the CFSG secretariat should be sent over to assist with the delivery of it.

## **7. Lord Gardiner letter on Dog Control**

Lord Gardiner wrote to CFSG in December regarding dog bite prevention. CFSG members recognised the importance of reducing bites and strikes but felt it was important to set out the difference between a dog bite not because the dog attacks but because a person accidentally gets in the way. Nonetheless, the underlying issue is to find ways of reducing the number of aggressive attacks on people by dogs. The Group also spoke about attacks on livestock which are believed to be low in number but are significant to farmers and need to be prevented. Members felt that the central issue is that much of this can be tackled with training and education of both humans and dogs which is where CFSG would want to focus its attention. It was agreed by members that prevention of bites and strikes starts with anyone who gets a dog getting it responsibly and having the information on how to look after it. Members were keen to assist Defra with any work the Department wanted to do this in area and offered its full support.

## **9. Any other business**

Chairmanship: Members noted that the chairmanship of CFSG would be coming forward for decision in the summer and suitable candidates needed to be considered.

Statistic Work: PfMA have an expert who could work with the CFSG working group on statistics to see how the work can be moved forward by identifying the gaps, looking at how data is collated and what is done with that data to make it useable. PfMA would offer this person voluntarily for the first bit of this work.

## **10. Date of next meeting: 24th March 11am-1pm**