



## Minutes

24<sup>th</sup> March 2017 11am-1pm

**Location: The Kennel Club, Clarges Street, London**

Prof Steve Dean, Marisa Heath, Richard Hooker (PDSA), David Bowles (RSPCA), Claire Horton (AHWBE), Paula Boydon (Dogs Trust), Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection), Caroline Kisko (The Kennel Club), Steve Goody (Blue Cross), Michael Bellingham (PfMA), Ben Drummer (Soulor Consulting), Dominic Whitmee (OATA/PIF), Nigel Baker (PIF), Mark Berry (NCAFG), Steve Crow (GCCF), Mike Webb (Battersea Dogs & Cats Home), David Cavill (PETBC), Claire Calder (Dogs Trust), Claire Williams (ADCH), Linda Cattle (WoodGreen), Sally Everitt (SE), Becky Thwaites (Blue Cross), Sue Murphy (AHT), Susan Dawson (BSAVA), Claire Bessant (ICC), Rob Quest (NCAFG)

1. **Welcome and introductions**

2. **Apologies – AmB**

3. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed

4. **Matters arising**

a) CFSG Working Groups Update

i) Cat Working Group

Currently working on Kitten Checklist.

ii) Zoonotic Disease Working Group

Rabies Core Group met in March for the first time in the year. Post Brexit, the Rabies Control Order and Importation Order will not be impacted as they are domestic legislation but Pet Travel and the Balai Directive will be impacted and there is an opportunity to revisit things like tick treatment and tape treatment for cats which CFSG support. The CVOs Pet Travel Scheme group met on illegal importation from mainline Europe where it was noted that the individuals are getting clever and only bringing in 2 or 3 puppies with carrier approval for their vehicle but the puppies are not of right age. There has been reduced seizures on welfare grounds so the puppies have to be seized under the Rabies Order. In the lead up to Christmas there was a reduction in seizures at port and an increase of puppies being seized inland.

b) CFSG Chairmanship

SD will step down for the next meeting. MH will start the process of looking for applications and will formally advertise. Members felt that it was important that any applicants came with a good grasp of the health and welfare issues already and should not be heavily aligned with any member organisation.

c) Membership Applications

There were two applications for membership. The member discussed the need to be very considered about new members owing to the size of the group getting too big to be constructive and able to find consensus. Any new members needed to bring some new expertise to the group. It was agreed by members that NOAH should become a member.

## **5. Defra Licensing**

The Risk Framework is integral as to how the new regime is going to work and it needs to have two elements which are encouraging higher standards over the MLCs and enabling the public to make an informed choice. CFSG members wish to see it being public facing so the public can see a score. Definitions are also unclear on how commercial will be defined, what is business and what elements will be in the Regulations.

There are aspects of cat and dog breeding that will potentially bypass the commercial test and there may be some surprise how much does bypass. This will be clarified by understanding what the commercial test will be by Defra. It is important to come away very soon with a clear idea of what is included and what is not and can any be included at a later date.

Members were still of the view that a registration system was the best way of tackling the breeding and selling of puppies and kittens but recognised that cats and dogs are not very high up on Defra's policy list and the licensing work was worth the energy of driving it forward and getting it done to see some improvements in the current situation.

CFSG agreed that it would not support there being Cat Home Boarding MCs and would want this point made to Defra.

Members agreed that the MLCs within the Schedules drafted by Defra need to have more detail and lead members were chosen to write the drafts for Boarding, Breeding and Vending.

## **7. Big Tent Document – Following up the Strategy**

Members agreed that they needed to update attendees of the Big Tent with a new strategy taking into account their action plans.

## **8. Statistics –PfMA**

The idea of data came out of the Big Tent as a big issue so PfMA gave CFSG a presentation on their data collection as they have been running pet population research for many years in this format, in fact from 2008. PfMA asks 4000 people every year with the research company, TMS, going out and going into homes that have agreed to be part of a wider study. The numbers quoted are based on 2 years of data so it is looking at 8000 households in total. Members spoke about adding some questions to get data round current knowledge gaps on cats and dogs which PfMA agreed to facilitate. PDSA also has its PAW report which varies from 12000 in a year down to 2-3000 people. The total number over 5 years is 38,000. There is a big section on where people acquired their pets from in the PAW report. Members agreed it would be interesting to do two different methodologies between these two surveys and see if they come anywhere close on end results. Members felt that using these two surveys and putting in questions where there were gaps would help drive the data collection forward and enable CFSG to hold good information. Members also felt that getting the studies Peer Reviewed may be worth considering with a paper published each year.

## **9. Date of next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017**