



MINUTES

26th March 2018

Attendees: Chris Laurence (Chair), Steve Goody (Blue Cross), Nigel Baker (PIF), Alex Baker (PIF), David Cavi, (Animal Care College) Claire Bessant,(ICC) Claire Calder (Dogs Trust), Paula Boyden (Dogs Trust), Maggie Roberts (Cats Protection), Steve Crow (GCCF), David Bowles (RSPCA), Richard Hooker (PDSA), Bill Lambert (KC), Claire Horton (AHWBE), Mike Webb (BDCH), Adrienne Conroy (BSAVA), John Chitty (BSAVA)

1. Welcome

2. Apologies - Mayank Seth (AHT), Linda Cattle (Woodgreen)

3. Minutes of previous meeting - agreed

4. Matters arising

i) Restructure of CFSG: The Steering Group will now meet formally between main meetings. The function of the CFSG Steering Group (SG) is to consider project proposals, evaluate them and to recommend to the full group appropriate projects and to ensure they are expedited in an effective and timely manner. This will be generally achieved by the presence of a SG member, often as leader, on each working group as previously agreed. In order to achieve this aim SG requires a broad range of skills and knowledge, and the ability to provide significant effort between meetings. It is likely that only larger organisations will have the resources to contribute effectively as SG members.

The following organisations have been proposed as SG members:

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

Blue Cross

BSAVA

Cats Protection

Dogs Trust

Kennel Club

PDSA

Pet Industry Federation

RSPCA

Action: All members agreed to the formation of the Steering Group

ii) Defra Licensing Regulations Update

The Regulations are in Parliament and were debated by the House of Commons in mid March and will be debated by the House of Lords on 27th March. The guidance has finally been finished and now sits with Defra. The only work to be done now is the Procedure Guidance and the Risk Based Guidance for each activity.

iii) Working Groups Update

Rabies Core Group

The last meeting focused on a discussion with Public Health England as advice has changed on pre and post vaccinations. Frequency and number of doses may decrease. The CFSG chairman gave a presentation to AHWBE about the Pet Travel Scheme and the issues and consequently the AHWBE chairman has set up a working group.

Kitten Checklist

The list has gone through the Cat Group and there are lots of people who want to get on and use it. CFSG members should support it by adding their logos and putting it on their websites so that the public see it is a supported document much like the Puppy Contract.

Action: To put CFSG logo on this document and for all organisations on CFSG to add their logo and put it on their websites.

v) Membership Application: DBRG (associate)

The Dog Breeding Reform Group applied to be an associate member and as they bring relevant expertise in confirmation issues which would be useful to CFSG the application was approved.

Action – DBRG membership agreed.

5. Workplan for 2018

6. CFSG consultation responses: Third Party Ban

Members all agreed that it is undesirable for third parties to sell kitten and puppies so that should be the starting point of the group's response. It was also agreed that we need a system with effective rigorous enforcement and which has no loopholes. CFSG's response needs to point out where the loopholes are. It was pointed out that 30% of puppies come from re-homing centres in the U.S now that they have a third party ban as the breeders selling have moved them into re-homing centres which are unregulated. If you ban anything it can lead to people using other routes to get around that so they need to be identified and prevented. It is important to have good commercial breeders with regulation and enforcement- licensing is part of that journey and the new AAL will need some time to settle and become effective.

Action: CFSG supports a ban on third party sales of cats and dogs but feels there are a number of actions which need to be taken by Government to make such a ban successful. This involves tackling the loopholes which include rescue centres and sanctuaries, importation of puppies and kittens and direct sales between the seller in one country to the buyer in the UK. CFSG needs to highlight all of these concerns in its submission to the consultation alongside the fact that every little evidence exists around this issue.

7. Big Tent Meeting: 1st May

Invites have been sent out to wider stakeholders and over 80 attendees are expected. The main focus of the meeting will be to brief them all on the AAL - what's happened and what has been produced and how they can support the roll-out. Every CFSG member will be allocated to a workshop session on the day to help lead the discussions on key issues either relating to AAL, current consultations or our 2018 workplan.

END