



MINUTES
MEETING OF THE CANINE AND FELINE SECTOR GROUP
HELD AT THE KENNEL CLUB
ON MONDAY 27th APRIL at 2.00 PM

PRESENT

Nigel Baker	(NB)	Pet Industry Federation
Claire Bessant	(CB)	ICC
David Bowles	(DB)	RSPCA
Paula Boyden	(PB)	Dogs Trust
Patricia Coville	(PC)	BSAVA
Prof Sheila Crispin	(SCr)	Advisory Council on the Welfare Issues of Dog Breeding
Prof Steve Dean	(SD)	Chairman
Sally Everitt	(SE)	BSAVA
Meriel France	(MF)	Pet Industry Federation
Marisa Heath	(MH)	Secretariat
Richard Hooker	(RH)	PDSA
Claire Horton	(CH)	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home
Jen Lacy	(JL)	GCCF
Dee McIntosh	(DI)	Battersea
Prof Mike Radford	(PMR)	University of Aberdeen
Maggie Roberts	(MR)	Cats Protection
Rosemary Smart	(RS)	Kennel Club
Carol Warner	(CW)	Guide Dogs
Michael Webb	(MW)	Battersea Dogs and Cats Home

ITEM 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ITEM 2. APOLOGIES

Mark Vaudin	Animal Health Trust
Steve Goody	Blue Cross
James White	Guide Dogs
Linda Cantle	Woodgreen
Adrian Burder	Dogs Trust

ITEM 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a correct record.

ITEM 4. MATTERS ARISING

a. CFSG structure

Document agreed on how the membership is structured and how CFSG will work with other bodies. The document will be put out to the public via the website www.cfsg.org.uk under How CFSG Works

b. Working Groups:

i) Cat Welfare Working Group

Two meetings have been held so far to set out the exact problems to be solved which include population management and welfare. Evidence is being gathered on these issues currently and then the group will start to put together some initial recommendations on tackling the key issues.

ii) Model Licensing for Boarding Establishments

The Group is close to having a body of conditions completed and will present them soon.

iii) Rabies & Disease

Illegal importation of puppies into the UK continues to be the biggest issue and risk of disease and illness. Supply and demand of puppies needs to be considered fully as there is a question of demand versus what is available in the UK. The people importing puppies will always undercut breeders who are meeting high standards and they use search engine optimisation on the web very successfully. Public education and improved enforcement are the key focus points in tackling this importation of puppies and kittens and making it less profitable. The main focus needs to be on the statutory authorities so CFSG should collate the data each member holds and put it into a formal letter to Defra.

CFSG members expressed concern that very little authoritative and readily accessible information exists for the public on zoonotic disease in dogs and cats and it was decided that the secretariat would research what exists and members would look at how to use its resources and knowledge to ensure there is accessible information available on management of zoonotic disease.

iv) Cats and Dogs Welfare Codes

The Group are collecting evidence on how successful the Codes have been on educating the public and how effective are they being used in enforcement of the animal welfare act and the prosecution of people who do not abide. The current Codes have been circulated to make recommendations on how the language needs to be improved. The Group will meet in May to collate the evidence gathered.

c. Micro-chipping Update

Scotland have announced compulsory micro-chipping and Wales are consulting so there is potential opportunity to ask for improvements on provisions omitted from the English Regulations such as a link with Euro PetNet, definition of what is an adverse effect and dealing with dogs belonging to the homeless. There is a small window for asking for some input into Scottish Regulations which CFSG should use to suggest amendments.

5. CFSG Strategy

Members agreed the CFSG strategy which is to be placed on the website in May. The strategy reflects the Terms of Reference and can be a live document that is updated by members as actions are taken. Wider stakeholders will be asked for their views on this strategy during the Big Tent meeting as discussed at Item 6.

6. Big Tent

It was agreed that post-election is the time for CFSG to consult with wider stakeholders so a Big Tent meeting will be held in the summer. This will be a chance for wider stakeholders to state their views on cat and dog welfare priorities. Also the event would be good opportunity to clarify exactly what CFSG does..

END