



MINUTES

26th January 2015 Meeting at The Kennel Club

Members Present: Prof Steve Dean (Chairman) David Bowles (RSPCA), Mike Radford, Prof Sheila Crispin, Linda Cantle (Wood Green), Paula Boyden, Claire Bessant (International Cat Care), Steve Goody (Blue Cross), Steve Crow (GCCF), Mike Webb (Battersea Dogs & Cats Home), Claire Horton (Battersea/AHWP), Katie McConnell (BSAVA), Richard Hooker (PDSA), Rosemary Smart (Kennel Club), Meriel France (Pet Industry Federation), Dee McIntosh (Battersea Dogs & Cats Home), Marisa Heath (CFSG)

1. Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.
2. Apologies for absence: Tim Morris (AHWP)
3. Minutes of the last meeting on 13th October 2014 agreed.
- 4.

i) Structure of CFSG

A document was presented setting out three levels of membership – Steering Group, Main Members and Advisors. Working Groups will involve those in an Advisory role and led by CFSG members.

Discussion was around ensuring that CFSG members engaged with other smaller bodies and sought their thoughts when appropriate. Suggestion of a 'big tent' meeting to which those with an interest in dog and cat health and welfare be invited to give their views.

A document setting out the membership structure will be put on the CFSG website.

ii) Finance

MH – All subscriptions from members have been paid and CFSG has the financial ability to keep a secretariat in place until August and ensure all incidentals can be covered.

iii) TB Cats in Briefing

A document was produced on behalf of CFSG setting out the information around TB as there had been some media coverage of this in 2014 and members wanted to ensure the public were informed. It was pointed out that Public Health England had produced a good overview which might be more useable alongside member's already existing information on this subject such as the International Cat Care and Cats Protection briefing. It was felt that CFSG did not have a role in reproducing this sort of information but instead should be signposting towards it. In future when an issue arises relating to the health and welfare of cats and dogs for which members have already produced briefings, CFSG will play more of a role in ensuring messages are not contradictory and signposting towards them.

iv) CFSG Working Group Update

Model Licensing Working Group: The working conditions for Boarding Kennels are close to being approved. The Group is pulling together the discussion and will move onto Home Boarding soon. The cat conditions have been approved and are in use.

Rabies Working Group: A meeting was held last summer and we now have specialist advisors on that group. Defra has set up the Core Rabies Group for which the lead for the CFSG group is attending.

The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime & Policing Act Working Group is on hold until there has been time to see how the legislation and guidance has settled in later this year.

The Cat Welfare Working Group is due to have its first meeting in February to look at irresponsible breeding.

v) Advisory Council for Dog Breeding – Ongoing Legacy Work

The Council's work around legislation and regulation was presented to CFSG as the area it could take forward. Consideration was also given to the Deregulation Bill and Codes of Practice. This would be put into the CFSG Strategy work and CFSG would respond to any consultation on the Deregulation Bill.

Members also discussed the information on the Council's website and it was stated that the How to Buy a Puppy section was very useful which BVA will be taking on. CFSG would like to refer to this and also use ICC version for cats.

5. Micro-chipping

There was a succinct account in the House of Lords debate which answered a lot of the questions such as who registers the animal the first time, who is the offender if the animal's details are not updated and how the regulations will affect breeders. This will come into effect in England in April 2016. For the future CFSG will need to prepare to look at the guidance around the regulations and monitor its effectiveness for the 5-year review.

6. Strategy

A draft document was considered which aimed to set out all the issues affecting cat and dog health and welfare. Members were asked to suggest amendments. It was decided that once the document has been finalised it will be sent out for wider comment, probably in March, and that feedback will then assist in forming the CFSG's priority setting.

9.AOB

The Current Codes of Practice for the Welfare of Cats and Dogs, produced in 2009, are up for review this year and CFSG will need to review them. Members of CFSG were involved in the original formation of the Codes and now need to consider how they can be improved and used more effectively. CFSG commence their review and aim to provide the AHWBE with a report by mid-summer 2015.

END