



MINUTES

28th July 2016 11am-1.00pm

Location: The Boardroom, Battersea Cats & Dogs Homes, London

Steve Dean Chairman
Claire Horton AHWBE
Richard Hooker PDSA/Vice-Chairman
David Bowles RSPCA
Mike Webb BDCH
Clare Williams ADCH
Jacqui Cuff Cats Protection
Ann McBride ABTC
Claire Calder Dogs Trust
Ed Hayes Kennel Club
Marisa Heath CFSG

Rose Smart Kennel Club
David Cavil PETBC
Caroline Peacock Guide Dogs
Sally Everitt BSAVA
Adrian Burder Dogs Trust
Sue Murphy AHT
Susan Dawson BSAVA
Steve Goody Blue Cross
Steve Crow GCCF
Nigel Baker PIF

1. **Apologies** – Paula Boyden, Maggie Roberts, David Montgomery, Sam Gaines, Clive Byles
2. **Minutes of previous meeting**

Agreed

Matters Arising

i) The EFRA Committee Enquiry

Members discussed the lack of substantial evidence provided to the EFRA Committee including the shortage of data from Defra. Members felt CFSG was well placed to be able to collect data and seek key statistics that would help to prioritise the work done on cat and dog health and welfare. Members felt that it would be difficult for the EFRA committee to produce a report that would be based on evidence. The report is being written with an expectation of publication in early to mid-October.

ii) Model Licensing Conditions

A group called LIKCA, the Licensed Kennel and Cattery Association raised concerns through the chair about the Model Licensing Conditions which have now been published.

CFSG members including those in the trade felt that the document is much more user friendly and it would be difficult to ever find full agreement. They agreed it would have been better if Defra had bought in Codes of Practice as there is a demand from Local Authorities to have guidance. That may come out of the licensing consultation and certainly setting standards would be an important thing to do in other areas including home boarding. It was stated that the document can always be reviewed and that the comments given by LIKCA would be sent to the committee for consideration.

iii) Chairman Terms of Reference

CFSG members had requested that Terms of Reference be set before the next AGM. A draft paper was sent around and members asked for further clarification on the required expertise of the chair, how the election would work and whether the chair could be selected from outside of the Group. It was decided that a chair could be selected from outside of the Group as long as they could demonstrate their knowledge on cat and dog health and welfare and would be able to represent the Group at the Animal Health & Welfare Board and collective sector group meetings.

iv) Cat Working Group

The CFSG cat working group led by Cats Protection presented their report to the AHWBE in June. It was recognised that cats are not high on the Government's agenda but the Board encouraged the working group to do as much as they could on self-regulation and then seek Defra endorsement. The Group will now look at changes to pet vending and a Kitten Checklist which could potentially get Defra support as well as a Code of Ideal Breeding Standards that demonstrates a commitment to welfare. The Group will report back to each CFSG meeting.

v) Welfare Codes Working Group

Government were due to make them non-statutory and changed their minds before the summer. At the moment they will focus on the Farm Codes as the Broiler Codes for example is 20 years old whereas the Dog and Cat Codes are only 6 years old. Defra are planning to look at them and CFSG will hold onto them until the right time.

viii) Rehoming Guide

CFSG has been working on a re-homing guide for Local Authorities which seeks to assist officers in ensuring dogs are re-homed safely with the right families and there is little risk of them being abandoned again. CFSG members agreed to include a section on re-homing with children which two members with the expertise would help to write. The guide would be signed off at the September meeting and then passed on to the NCAWF for views.

5. Statistic Work

CFSG has held meetings with a number of organisations who hold data who are all very willing to help with the provision of that data as long as there is a clear question and justification as to why that specific information is being sought. The point was made by members that there is data and then there is analysis of that data before you get to evidence so there is work to do on procedures of how to follow this process to get meaningful information. Members recognised that it was a substantial piece of work that may require statistical expertise. Some members felt it was not CFSG's role to collate data but all members recognised that currently it is missing which makes identifying priorities problematic.

6. Strategy 2016-17

A draft Strategy for the coming year had been prepared for members. Members were able to add any other issues which they felt would be a priority. It was decided that that amended Strategy would be signed off at the next meeting in September and then presented to interested stakeholders at the Big Tent meeting in November.

One issue which had not been included in the draft strategy was dog control and the DDA as there is growing campaigning around this and in particular concern over the welfare of dogs when they are seized. As there is likely to be further public focus on the 25th anniversary of the Act it was felt some work should be done on it and therefore it should be in the Strategy.

7. Any other business:

i) Big Tent Meeting –

The meeting is scheduled for 22nd September with the AHWBE and the Minister attending. The EFRA Committee report will have been published and Defra will have moved forward with the Licensing Review by then so that will be the focus of discussion alongside the CFSG Strategy. CFSG members felt it was important to hear from the wider stakeholders; small organisations, campaigners and experts to understand what they believe the priorities to be and what potential solutions they have in mind.

ii) Brexit

There are only two pieces of legislation relating to cats and dogs and in terms of pet regulation, members felt that Defra were open to recommendations and have discussed ticks and tape worm. It was decided that CFSG would write to Defra setting out the position on pet and animal health regulations. Members discussed Pet Travel in terms of rabies and whether there should be consideration of increasing the period of waiting from 21 days as there is evidence to support that as the incubation period of rabies is longer than the 21 days. There was also discussion over the reintroduction of tick treatment and reintroduction of tape worm treatment for cats. Members raised the issue of the free border between the Republic of Ireland and the UK and how that is dealt with.

8. Date of Next Meeting

23rd September 2016