



MINUTES

Inaugural Meeting

All Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare 2015-2020

22nd June 2015 1700-1800hrs Committee Room 9, House of Commons

Political Members Present: Huw Irrunca Davis MP, Angela Smith MP, Caroline Lucas MP, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, Neil Parish MP, Baroness Masham, Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Andrea Jenkyns MP, Sheryll Murray MP, Rebecca Pow MP, Darren Rutland for Henry Smith MP

Associate Members Present: Arnot Wilson (Dog Union), Ben Myring (RCVS), Stephen Charlton (Cockapoo Club GB), Dan O'Neill (Vet Compass/RVC), Julia Charlton (Cockapoo Club GB), Michael Webb (Battersea Dogs & Cats Home), Ben Sundell (Battersea Dogs & Cats Home), Philippa Robinson (The Karlton Index), Dr. Fiona Cooke (Local Government), Linda Goodman (CARIAD), Fiona Wright (Independent), Vicki Craighill (PDSA), Debbie Matthews (Vets Get Scanning), Marc Abraham (PupAid), Steve Goody (Blue Cross), Becky Thaites (Blue Cross), Martin Taggart (Dog Theft Action), Elaine Toland (APA), Professor Mike Radford (School of Law, Aberdeen University), Kirsten Pullen (BIAZA), Carolyn Smith (Vet), Aileen Ward (Greyt Exploitations), Lucinda Read (Greyhound Compassion), Ian Juniper (Independent), Tom Sheppard (LACS), Tom Quinn (LACS), Lorraine Platt (Conservatives Against Foxhunting), Kirsten Anderson (Network for Animals), Jessamy Korotoga (ADI), Ros Leeming (IFAW), Aleno Baker (Pet Industry Federation), Josh Kaile (World Animal Protection)

1. Welcome: Neil Parish stated that he had very much enjoyed being chairman for the last 5 years under the Coalition Government and would now be taking on the chairmanship of the EFRA Select Committee which meant he could not stand for re-election of APGAW. As it was a new Parliament, APGAW would need to be reconstituted with new officers.

2. Election of Political Officers

- a) Chairman: Henry Smith MP & Rebecca Pow MP
- b) Vice-Chairmen: Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Caroline Lucas MP & Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP
- c) Treasurers x 2: Rob Ffello & Lord Trees
- d) Secretary x 2: Sheryl Murray MP, Andrea Jenkyns MP & Angus MacNeil MP

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Jim Fitzpatrick MP expressed his concern that both co-chairman were Conservative members which he felt did not represent the political balance required for an APPG. He was asked whether he would stand as a co-chairman but declined and took a position as vice-chairman instead. It was asked whether anyone else in the room would like to stand. Nobody came forward and so Rebecca Pow MP and Henry Smith MP were elected.

3. Introduction to New Chairmen

Rebecca Pow MP: My constituency of Taunton has been home for 27 years and my husband is a 7th generation agricultural auctioneer. I come from a long line of farmers, all from Somerset. A scientist by training, a former BBC, ITV and C4 reporter, specialising in the environment, farming and gardening I have also worked for the National Farmers Union, standing up for the agricultural community in dealings with Brussels. I have a strong interest in animal welfare and particularly in high standards for farm animals.

Henry Smith MP: Henry was unable to attend as he was at a meeting relating to his constituency with the Transport Minister.

4. Priority Issues: Associate Members Significant Welfare Issues for APGAW Strategy

Steve Goody (Blue Cross) The breeding and sale of dogs should continue to be a priority issue as a lot of work has been done and progress is being made.

Marisa Heath stated that this work would continue through the APGAW dog sub-group with Rob Ffello MP still taking a lead.

Aileen Ward (Greyt Exploitations) The 2015 review of the 2010 regulations relating to Greyhound racing needs to be a priority issue as many welfare concerns remain in this area. As you know, I have pressed on this issue many times in APGAW and hope that the Group will work with Greyt Exploitations to respond to the Review.

Caroline Lucas MP – I agree that APGAW should look at this Review as it is an issue of great concern to many people and organisations.

Vicki Craighill (PDSA) – In the last Parliament, APGAW worked with the Education Alliance on their work and we would like this to continue with the push for animal welfare to be included in the National Curriculum and general promotion of the education potential and resources out there.

Lorraine Plat (Conservatives Against Foxhunting) – Hunting with dogs should be discussed in light of the commitment for a vote on the repeal of the Hunting Act.

David Bowles (RSPCA) There will be a review of the Primate Code coming up soon so it would be timely for APGAW to look at this as well as exotic pets more generally.

Kisten Pullen (BIAZA) – Primates as Pets is a good issue and also the rise of mobile zoos in which animals are being farmed out to places like shopping malls and parties with currently no regulation to protect their welfare.

Professor Mike Radford (Aberdeen University) – APGAW should continue to look at the enforcement of current legislation which is not only an animal welfare issue but also a constitutional one.

Josh Kaile (World Animal Protection) – Intensive farming and fishing around the British coasts with ghost fishing.

Ros Leeming (IFAW) – The illegal wildlife crime with the summit in Vietnam due soon. We would like to see the Control of Trade of Endangered Species Regulation and work done on wildlife cyber crime.

Tom Quinn (League Against Cruel Sports) APGAW should ensure it looks at timely issues and then controversial issues. So for timely it would be the Greyhound Review, the Law Commission Wildlife Review and then controversial would be hunting, badger, snaring.

Martin Taggart (NEWC) Please continue to push for progress on the Central Equine Database.

Robin Hargreaves (BVA) – The importation of puppies is not a trivial matter and needs to be pushed by all groups as it relates to serious crime.

Dan O'Neil (RVC) – Often forgotten are rabbits as smaller animals that are kept as pets, used for angora and fur and also in the meat industry yet with no specific protection for their welfare. There is a Rabbit Code of Practice in Wales but not England.

Caroline Lucas MP – Long distance transport and consideration of the TTIP Agreement where American standards for welfare are lower. What are the implications for animal welfare if we leave the EU.

Andrea Jenkyns MP – We should look at sentencing and enforcement of animal welfare legislation. I would also like to look at the risk of anti-microbial resistance

Angela Smith MP – I agree consistency of the enforcement and best practice should be on the list.

5. Date of Next Meeting: 15th September 2015