



**The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare Progress Report
The Parliament of 2015-20
UPDATE FEBRUARY 2016**

The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) was reformed after the General Election in May 2015. Prior to this it was chaired by Neil Parish MP who is now the chairman of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee. The new Officers elected are as follows:

- Co-Chairs: Henry Smith MP (Con, Crawley), Rebecca Pow MP (Con, Taunton Deane) Angela Smith MP
 Vice Chairs: Jim Fitzpatrick MP (Lab, Poplar and Limehouse), Dr Caroline Lucas MP (Green, Brighton Pavilion) and Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP (Con, The Cotswolds)
 Co-Treasurers: The Lord Trees (Crossbench) and Rob Ffello MP (Lab, Stoke on Trent South)
 Group Secretaries: Andrea Jenkyns MP (Con, Morley and Outwood), Angus MacNeill MP (SNP, Na h-Eileanan an Iar) and Sheryll Murray MP (Con, South East Cornwall)

There are currently 130 associate members of the Group representing the key welfare organisations

Issue	Action/update	Result
<p>Consistent Engagement To Raise The Profile of Animal Welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17th March Animal Welfare Question Time – to ensure politicians are aware that their stance on animal welfare is important to the electorate • 22nd June - AGM and election of new Officers • 15th September - Review of the Hunting Act • 25th November – Conference on Dog Welfare • 8th December – Planning Application for B&K Beagle Facility and Scientific Testing on Cats & Dogs • 8th December – Film Screening for Puppy Farm video with Andrea Jenkyns MP • Marisa meeting and emailing political members with news, advice and support on animal welfare issues so it is ensured that they get the correct information and work collectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All political parties attended and participated • December – Labour MP elected to co-chairman • Hunting Act amendments postponed with no indication when it will be revisited. • Cross-party MPs engaged and all agreed on way forward for dog welfare. • Agreed that APGAW will hold a debate on the evidence for benefits of scientific testing on animals with Understanding Animal Research, Dr Hadwen and For Life on Earth in 2016. • Members continue to keep the issues around dog welfare and breeding high profile. • December Defra issued a consultation on licensing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with associate members to look at supporting campaigns. • Engaging with Government bodies relevant to animal welfare and developing APGAW influence - Sector Groups, AHWBE, FAWC, IAT, EFRA Select Committee etc • Westminster Pet of Year event in July – APGAW and David Amess MP will work with RSPCA, Blue Cross and PDSA to make it an educational event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with British Veterinary Association to look at supporting campaign on humane slaughter. • Meeting with PDSA to support education campaigns and PAW report. • Meeting with Tim Morris from the Animal Health & Welfare Board to raise issues and set priorities. • APGAW invited to stakeholder meetings at Defra and attendance from AHWBE and/or Defra officials at APGAW meetings. • 4 APGAW officers sit on EFRA Select Committee and former chairman of APGAW is now chairman of EFRA.
Dog Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held an enquiry into Dog Breeding in the last Parliament and published A Healthier Future for Pedigree Dogs which led to focused dog welfare work in the new Parliament. • Monitored and scrutinised key stakeholders responsible for improving dog welfare by holding annual meetings which have continued into the new Parliament. • Set up APGAW Sub-Group for Dogs in 2014 with lead MPs. • Published the Dog Strategy in 2015 with 21 recommendations on improving dog welfare. • Held first ever Dog Conference in the UK being together a wide range of people campaigning on dog issues with the Minister speaking and cross-party support. • Working with the Canine & Feline Sector Group Puppy Board to tackle breeding, dealing and trading of puppies • Submitted APGAW response to Scottish Consultation pushing for a ban on electric shock collars and will continue pushing Defra for the same in England. • Wrote to Home Office asking for increased sentencing for those involved in illegal dog fighting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report was well received and used as a reference point by veterinary professionals, academic & politicians • All chief executives attended annual meeting and sat on panel to take questions • Rob Ffello MP (Lab) took up position as chairman of Sub-group & remains as key advocate of dog welfare in parliament. • Strategy was widely welcomed as the first time all key stakeholders had agreed on a way forward and politicians had led. • Strategy is held up by experts as being the way forward. • UK Government have stated they will seek to increase sentencing when they get time in the legislative timetable. • Opportunities within Defra Licensing Review to improve sale of puppies and breeding practice.
Equine Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published Equine report in conjunction with All Party Group for the Horse in 2014. • Supported stakeholder's campaign for better legislation (RSPCA, WHW etc) • Have held meetings on the Grand National with the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) to express concerns over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report was a useful overview document which the chairman took to Defra • The Control of Horses Act was established in 2015 • BHA continue to engage and work with the RSPCA on course

	<p>welfare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APGAW co-ordinator and Angela Smith MP attended World Horse Welfare Annual Equine Conference and engaged with stakeholders on behalf of APGAW 	<p>safety.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good working relation with the APPG for the Horse. • Opportunities under Defra Licensing Review for equine facilities.
Exotics & Primates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting held during last parliament to establish facts on numbers, species and general statistics and more recent meeting held on 9/2/16 • Agreement in principle with pet trade, AHWBE and Co-Chair that APGAW forms a group to look consumer education framework. • APGAW will push for a ban on primates as pets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities within the Defra licensing review of pet animals. • APGAW MPs have agreed to endorse a working group which would look at traffic light systems and design a common framework for consumer welfare advice and standards across the various diverse species, other than dogs and cats, kept as pets. • EFRA Select Committee will hold an enquiry into exotic pets in the Spring with APGAW political members sitting on it so APGAW will prepare information for them.
Labeling & Humane Slaughter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enquiry style meeting held in 2015 with all religious groups • APGAW held mini joint enquiry with APPG for Lamb & Beef into humane slaughter • Will continue lobbying MPs, Defra & EU for clear labeling of religious slaughtered meat that is being sneaked into mainline for profitability. • Meeting with BVA in Feb 16 to look at how APGAW can support their scientifically led campaigns on pre-stun and CCTV in all slaughterhouses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear understanding of the issues around humane slaughter with the key issue being kosher methods over halal • Agreement that clear labeling is required on meat. • APGAW Co-Chair Henry Smith dedicated to working on humane slaughter. • APGAW will continue to push for this issue and seek support from EFRA Select Committee on labelling and CCTV
International Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog Meat- APGAW wrote to Vietnamese and South Korean Government about the welfare & health risks • APGAW Office, Rob Flello MP, led Parliamentary debate in Nov 15 • APGAW wrote to Foreign Office asking for diplomatic support in highlighting the issue abroad • Illegal Wildlife Trade – meeting due in 2016 – elephants, rhinos, whales, tigers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • APGAW is continuing to help to keep this issue high profile. • Kerry McCarthy stated her commitment to this at the APGAW conference • Rob Flello will continue to attend events, write and put pressure on FCO under Dog Sub-Group • Government committed to tackling illegal wildlife trade in their election manifesto – APGAW needs to hold them to account. • Rebecca Pow committed to fighting for National Wildlife Crime Unit – APGAW wrote to Home Office & Defra 1 February

		<p>stating unanimous political officer support for funding.</p>
<p>Enforcement & Resource for Animal Welfare</p>	<p>•In 2015 APGAW held a meeting on enforcement of current animal welfare legislation. Those on the discussion panel included local government, police and RSPCA inspectors. The outcome of that meeting was agreement that much of the problem was not a lack of legislation but a lack of enforcement and the resource to fund that enforcement. APGAW committed to engagement with these groups, in particular local government who handle licensing etc and often do have guidance or assistance in animal welfare matters.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •APGAW has been working with the Companion Animal Welfare Forum’s chair Mark Berry and Rob Quest from City of London to ensure the group is always aware of the practicalities of their work when advising MPs and responding to consultations. •APGAW is looking at the resource issue through the sub-group on dogs supported by MPs and will develop some proposals with risk and opportunity analysis in 2016. •APGAW is working with local authority experts in responding to the Defra Licensing Review as well as the RSPCA who are involved in enforcement too.