

Note of the Companion Animal Sector meeting on 18 June 2007
Meeting held at 1a Page Street, London SW1P 4PQ

Present

Peter Scott – Chair

Joanne Edgar - Rabbit Welfare Association

Judith Brown - Rabbit Welfare Association

Steve Fairburn – Pets at Home, pet trade rabbits and small mammals

Ken Stirk – pet trade, rabbits and small mammals

Janet Nunn – Pet Care Trust

Chris Newman – FOCAS

Alan Gibbs – British Rabbit Council, FOCAS

Colin O'Hara – Parrot Society

Les Rance – Parrot Society

Phil Gibbs – small mammals

Keith Davenport – OATA

Dick Mills – Federation of British Aquarists, FOCAS

Roger Butler – Federation of British Herpetologists

Sean Fitzpatrick – National Council for Aviculture

1. Introductions

2. The EIG and the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy

The thrust of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy was to put the responsibility for health and welfare with the people who keep and sell animals.

Work on companion animals had stalled prior to Peter Scott's arrival due to the resignation of the previous EIG member.

3. Division of interests/labour

Chickens kept as pets should initially fall into the bird group but may form a separate group later on.

The sector council must input into the work currently being done on rabbits by the Welsh Advisory Group.

Educational input should not rest with any one body. Raise the issue with Lantra as soon as possible.

Delineate hobby/trade and produce guidance for the public.

A cross-industry group to be responsible for gathering surveillance information.

Action Point: Peter Scott to coordinate gathering information from surveillance groups

Information from Europe would come from the EIG.

The sub-sectors will set their own welfare standards. Guidance must be realistic and workable.

Behaviour was not always a reliable indicator of welfare, therefore monitoring prosecutions was not the only way to assess welfare.

Engage the RSPCA in the process.

Nominate specialist vets for the individual sectors through engagement with the national associations.

It is envisaged that the sector council will meet twice a year.

The draft Terms of Reference was taken from the sheep sector and will be adopted by all the sub-sectors.

Action Point: Comments on the draft Terms of Reference to Peter Scott by 22 June

4. Composition of sector councils

The CA sector council will comprise of the stakeholders listed above plus representatives from the dog and cat sector.

Rabbit group to include Rabbit Welfare Association, Pets at Home, FOCAS, Pet Care Trust and British Rabbit Council. This is a priority sector due to pressure of the Welsh process.

Bird group to include pet poultry and falconry representatives. Parrot Society to organise a meeting

Fish to include Koi, goldfish but to work separately from UK aquaculture for now.

Reptiles to seek cross industry input led by FOCAS.

Small mammals to include FOCAS and Pet Care Trust.

5. The Equine health and Welfare Strategy document as a template for companion animals

Areas of commonality to be extracted from the Equine Strategy and developed by the sub-sectors.

Action Point: Give thoughts on areas of commonality which can be used as a basis for the draft strategy

Action Point: Each sub-group to prepare an overall view of their sector for Peter Scott by 18 July