



Companion Animal Welfare Council

Annual Report

2000

Chairman: Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior
Companion Animal Welfare Council,
20 Queensberry Place, London, SW7 2DZ
Tel No: 020 7584 1274 Fax No: 020 7225 2085
Website: www.cawc.org.uk

MacG4:Desktop Folder:CAWC bits:CAWC Annual Report

Contents

CONTENTS	2
INTRODUCTION	3
HISTORY OF CAWC	3
INITIATION OF CAWC	6
FORMATION OF CAWC	7
COMPOSITION OF CAWC	9
FINANCIAL TRUST	13
PREMISES, STAFF AND COMMUNICATION	14
STUDIES BEING UNDERTAKEN	15
<i>Companion animal identification and registration</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Standards and controls for rescue establishments and sanctuaries</i>	<i>18</i>
FUTURE STUDIES	20
<i>Companion animals in health and social care institutions</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Welfare of exotics – standards and controls</i>	<i>20</i>
SUMMARY	21
 Appendix 1 <i>Call for Evidence – Identification and Registration of Companion Animals</i>	
Appendix 2 <i>Call for Evidence – Standard and Controls for Companion Animal Rescue Establishments and Sanctuaries</i>	
Appendix 3 <i>Financial Statements for the Period ended 31 December 1999</i>	
Appendix 4 <i>Financial Statements for the 11 months ended 30 November 2000</i>	

Introduction

The Companion Animal Welfare Council was officially launched on 26th April 1999 in the Jubilee Room of the House of Commons. More than 200 guests, including members of the press and members of the Houses of Commons and Lords were present. Lord Donoughue, then Minister for Agriculture in the Lords spoke, welcoming the establishment of CAWC as did Lord Williams of Mostyn, then Minister of State for the Home Office who also welcomed CAWC and wished it well in its endeavours.

History of CAWC

For many years it has been recognised that the welfare of companion animals has not had safeguards comparable to those offered to farm animals through the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC). Though FAWC is not a legislative body, its deliberations and reports command attention and action on the part of Government. On the other hand, legislation affecting companion animals (e.g. dogs and cats) tends to be enacted resulting from some emergency problem (as with the Dangerous Dogs Act) or action taken to correct unacceptable practices (as with the Breeding and Sale of Dogs Act).

In the early 1990s various pieces of legislation were proposed (e.g. registration of dogs) or enacted (e.g. Dangerous Dogs Act) which focused attention on the need for some body to take a more determined and independent interest in the welfare of companion animals than was being achieved by piecemeal legislation.

There were, and still are, several well established organisations which are concerned with companion animal welfare. Some, such as the Donkey Sanctuary and the International League for the Protection of Horses, are concerned solely with the Welfare of equines, while the welfare of dogs and cats is attended to by organisations such as the RSPCA, National Canine Defence League, Pet Advisory Committee, PDSA, Blue Cross, Battersea Dogs Home, Cats Protection League, Scottish SPCA, Wood Green Animal Shelters, to mention a few. Some of these may serve as animal sanctuaries, or refuges, others provide veterinary care to animals of individuals unable to afford normal veterinary fees, whilst others provide a range of services, including support for investigative pertinent to animal welfare.

Further, some of the organisations are also concerned with lobbying government for change.

The need for an independent advisory body for companion animal welfare was recognised during the debates in the House of Lords on the Dangerous Dogs Bill and subsequent amendments to it.

What are companion animals?

The relationships between animals and man are of antiquity, some of the earliest being those of religious beliefs and worship, but dominantly throughout history animals have played a critical role in provision of motive power and of meat, milk and fibre. Many of these contributions remain important today, especially in the developing world. But in the increasingly urban society of the developed world their role has changed considerably, and an important one to be added to the traditional is that of companionship.

That this role is important is attested by the fact there are some 14 million dogs and cats in the United Kingdom with over 50%, or 1 in 2 households, owning a dog or cat.

The use of the phrase “companion animal” is preferred to that of “pet” as not only does the latter tend to be pejorative, implying a lack of any utility, but it also fails to provide an adequate description of the relationship that may grow between man and animals that otherwise do mainly perform utilitarian tasks, for example, horses.

Of course it is recognised that many other species other than dogs and cats contribute to human companionship, such as rabbits, rodents, cage birds, exotic species, and in particular ornamental fish; 30 million at the last estimate. In this group of species it may be difficult to ascribe to them the rich variety of sentient gestures and signals recognised in dogs and cats towards their owners and which are usually interpreted as expressions of attachment and affection. Though, for example, a stick insect or a tortoise cannot be as expressive as a cat or dog in its relationship with an owner, there must be clear stewardship established and accepted for the welfare of that animal and it must be treated as a companion animal rather than merely as a status symbol, an ornament or a plaything.

Hence the phrase “companion animals” covers the whole spectrum of species that might otherwise be considered as “pets”. They have an important role to play in our society.

Other definitions of companion animals include “any animal kept or intended to be kept by man, in particular in his household for private enjoyment and companionship”^{*} and “species which, within the context of the local culture have traditionally been companions to humans and bred, whether specifically or not, for this purpose”^{**}.

However, the definition officially recognised by CAWC means any animal which for the time being and from time to time shall be kept by man as a companion, including cats, dogs, birds, rodents and equines of all descriptions whether or not such animals shall also be kept by man for purposes other than as a companion.

Initiation of CAWC

In December 1993 the late Lord Houghton of Sowerby promoted the idea of establishing a new advisory committee, financed from non-government sources, to be called the Dog Control and Welfare Council. Lord Houghton wished to model this Council on the lines of the Farm Animal Welfare Council in that it would be recognised as an independent advisory body with its membership being appointed by Her Majesty’s Government.

Following extensive discussions it was agreed to broaden the remit to include all companion animals, not only dogs. The committee would concentrate on the welfare of companion animals thereby addressing the welfare needs of some 13 million dogs and cats in the United Kingdom, as well as several millions other companion animal species, and horses where they were kept as companion animals.

Footnotes:

^{*} Council of Europe –European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals

^{**} from World Society for Protection of Animals draft “Universal Declaration for the Welfare of Animals”

Lord Houghton envisaged that support for the Companion Animal Welfare Council would come from the Government (Home office) in the way of supportive administrative personnel and office space, similar to the support given by the Government for the Farm Animal Welfare Council. However, this support did not materialise and so rather than abandon the idea it was decided to set up a Council on an independent basis.

It is recognised in the first instance CAWC must be self-supporting through voluntary donations made by welfare bodies who have declared support for CAWC. It is agreed that there would be an initial time limit of 3 years on the welfare bodies to fund CAWC to permit an evaluation before any long-term commitment was made.

Formation of CAWC

Representatives of a number of companion animal welfare organisations, members of both Houses of Parliament and other interested parties met as a Steering Committee and deliberated upon the desirability of setting up a Companion Animal Welfare Council. They were convinced of the value of establishing such a Council in order to serve as an independent advisory body on matters relating to companion animal welfare. The Steering Committee comprised the following members:

Lord Soulsby of Swafham Prior, Chairman

Mrs Clarissa Baldwin, National Canine Defence League

Mr Peter Davies, RSPCA

Mr Roger Gale, MP

Steering Committee members (cont):

Dr Andrew Higgins, Animal Health Trust

Mr Lou Leather, Pet Advisory Committee and Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Dr Alistair Porter, Blue Cross

Sir Colin Spedding, Farm Animal Welfare Council

Dr Elisabeth Svendsen, MBE, The Donkey Sanctuary

Mr Paul de Vile, British Veterinary Association

The Late Baroness Wharton, House of Lords

It was proposed that the Council, while having access to a wide spectrum of views on, and expertise relating to companion animal welfare issues, should be completely independent. It was therefore considered essential that members of the Council should be appointed as individual experts in their own right, and not as representatives of organisations, even though such organisations would be asked to provide finances for CAWC.

It was the intention that the Council should, as far as possible, be structured along the same lines as, and follow the general approach of, the Farm Animal Welfare Council, so that it will be recognised as a body to which Her Majesty's Government and other responsible parties will turn for objective views and advice on companion animal welfare issues.

The Companion Animal Welfare Council has as its principal objectives:

- a) the provision of advice on the welfare of companion animals and the publication of its findings;
- b) the furtherance of the fuller understanding of companion animal welfare and of the role of companion animals in society;
- c) the assessment of existing legislation affecting the welfare of companion animals, and the making of recommendations regarding amendments or additions thereto.

In the furtherance of these objectives, the Council would:

- undertake independent and objective studies of companion animal welfare issues and identify where further information is required;
- prepare and publish reports thereon;
- make available information and research data that it has obtained, and if appropriate, to enable Parliamentary legislation on companion animal welfare issues to be drafted and debated on an informal basis;
- To be open to requests for objective views, advice and the carrying out of independent studies on issues concerned with the welfare of companion animals.

Within three years it is intended to undertake some key independent studies of companion animal welfare issues to validate the usefulness of CAWC. It is also proposed, within those three years, to seek support from Her Majesty's Government.

Composition of CAWC

Through the Steering Committee it was agreed that the Council must be seen to be totally independent and an Appointments Committee of eminent individuals was set up to select the Council.

The **Appointments Committee** comprises:

Sir James Armour, CBE FRCVS

Sir Christopher Paine, DM FRCP FRCR

The Baroness Mallalieu, QC

Sir David Williams, QC DL

The **Council** consists of a Chairman and 12 appointed members. The Council performs its work through *ad hoc* working groups established to deal with issues as they arise. There is an opportunity to co-opt temporary members for specific issues under consideration.

Council members are appointed as individual experts in their own right and not as representatives of organisations.

Present members of CAWC are listed below. Those appointed to CAWC after the launch (owing to resignation or death of founder members) are indicated by an asterisk.

Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior – Chairman: Veterinary Surgeon. Previously President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and President of the Royal Society of Medicine.

Mr Lou Leather – Chairman of Pet Advisory Committee, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, Member CIEH council: Ret'd Director of E.H., Member of the Institute of Acoustics, Associate of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries, and Member of The Royal Society of Health. Ex WGAS employee. Member of a wide variety of Working Parties, including Government, Scottish Office, BMA, BVA, LGA, and CIEH Working Parties on animals.

Mr Ronald Mochrie – Deputy Chief Executive 1988-1999 (retired) Scottish SPCA Secretary and Treasurer 1977-1987 Glasgow & West of Scotland SPCA. Introduction of dog warden schemes in West Scotland, neutering schemes and micro chipping of dogs and cats, modernisation and rebuilding of 14 animal welfare centres throughout Scotland.

Mrs Barbara Cooper - Veterinary Nurse, Principal of The College of Animal Welfare, Honorary Associate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Past President BVNA, Co-Editor of Veterinary Nursing, Board member of the Animal Care and Equine Training Organisation.

Professor Neil Gorman – Professor of Veterinary Surgery, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Glasgow 1987-1993. Currently Vice President of Mars Petcare. President RCVS 1987-1993.

Mr Peter Scott – Veterinary Surgeon. RCVS Specialist in fish health and production, RCVS Specialist in zoo and wildlife medicine. Ex-President British Veterinary Zoological Society. Head of team to review Secretary of State's standards for modern zoo practice on the behalf of the DETR.

Dr Anne McBride – Practising Behaviour Counsellor for over 12 years, runs the Animal Behaviour Clinic at the University of Southampton. Associated with the Anthrozoology Institute as a research fellow, Member of APBC, PATHWAY, SCAS and CABTSG, Co-Founder of homeless owners with pets project.

Mrs Sue Bell – Dog Warden for 11 years. President of National Dog Wardens' Association for 2 years. Member of Steering Group for NVQs level 3. British adviser to N.A.C.A.

Professor Sam Ahmedzai – Professor of palliative medicine at University of Sheffield Medical School. Director of Trent Palliative Care Centre and Honorary Consultant Physician in palliative medicine at Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Chairman of European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer study group on pain and symptom control, and the Association for Palliative Medicine Science Committee.

Mr John Rogerson – Canine behaviour and training consultant. Lectures worldwide on behaviour and training. Behaviour advise to most animal charities. Kennel Club approved trials judge.

* **Dr James Kirkwood** - Veterinary Surgeon, Director for the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and Honorary Director of the Humane Slaughter Association. Editor in Chief of the quarterly scientific journal Animal Welfare. Senior Veterinary Officer of the Zoological Society of London for 12 years and Head of the Institute of Zoology's Veterinary Science Group. Member of the Zoos Forum.

* **Dr Michael Herrtage** – Lecturer in Small Animal Medicine at the University of Cambridge and Deputy Head of the Department of Clinical Veterinary Medicine. Awarded the B.S.A.V.A. Blaine Award for outstanding contributions to the advancement of small animal medicine in 2000. President of the European Society of Veterinary Internal Medicine in 1993. President of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association 1991, Chairman of the British Veterinary Radiology Association 1988.

* **Mr Michael Radford**

Mike Radford is Lecturer in Law. He has been teaching animal welfare law since 1992. He is a member of the Council of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare and an academic adviser to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. He is presently undertaking research into local authority licensing, funded by the RSPCA, and revising the 'Animals' title of 'Halsbury's Laws of England'. He is author of 'Animal Welfare Law in Britain', to be published by the Oxford University Press in August 2001.

Sir Colin Spedding, CBE – Adviser to the Council: Previously Chairman, Farm Animal Welfare Council

Financial Trust

It was considered essential that CAWC is supported by the major companion animal welfare organisations. Representatives of these have been present at the Steering Committee meetings concerned with drawing up the Terms of Reference and the composition of the Council. They understand, and have agreed to, the Aims and Objectives of CAWC stated above.

However, it was also considered essential that CAWC should be independent of the supporting donors and to achieve this a Financial Trust, the **Welfare Fund for Companion Animals (WFCA)**, was established as an independent Trust to receive funds for the support of CAWC activities. This Trust is independent of CAWC and has independent Trustees. It allocates funding to CAWC for general purposes and also for specific studies. It judges when money offers are acceptable and also whether funds can be released for studies by CAWC, but it has no influence on how CAWC chooses to use the funds.

WFCA is a registered charity No 1070581.

The trustees of WFCA have been appointed by way of nominations from the Institute of Chartered Accountants, The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and The Law Society, and comprise as follows:

The Trustees of WFCA:

Dr Elizabeth Svendsen MBE (Secretary/Administrator)

The Baroness Fookes of Plymouth DBE (Chairman)

Mr Anthony Bate

His Honour Frederick Beezley

Mr Tim Hayward NA FCA

Mr John Hird MRCVS

The Lord Slynn of Hadley

Organisations that have provided support, including financial support, for CAWC are:

The Donkey Sanctuary	British Small Animal Veterinary Association
Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	Home of Rest for Horses
The Blue Cross	Pedigree Masterfoods
Universities Federation of Animal Welfare	Raystede Centre
International League for the Protection of Horses	The Dogs Home, Battersea
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	British Veterinary Association
Cats Protection League	Animal Health Trust
National Canine Defence League	Redwings Sanctuary
People's Dispensary for Sick Animals	

To date £131,500.00 has been received in support of CAWC.

Premises, Staff and Communication

Following an extensive search for premises to suit the needs of CAWC, office space was identified in the Institute of Biology, 20 Queensberry Place, London. The office is now well established with modern equipment, including a facility for teleconferences. CAWC employs a part-time secretary.

To further communicate to the public the aims and objectives of CAWC, a website was created and launched in February 2000 at www.cawc.org.uk

Studies being undertaken

Initial studies undertaken by CAWC are through two working parties, one investigating 'Companion animal identification and registration' and the second investigating 'Standards and controls for rescue establishments and sanctuaries'.

Companion animal identification and registration

The need for more accurate and permanent identification of animals has been demonstrated to be important for the control of animal movement associated with disease control, prevention of theft and the identification and recovery of strays and lost animals. The advent of modern techniques such as micro chipping, which can contain a variety of data useful for various purposes, has greatly expanded the opportunities for developing databases to assist in welfare issues especially within the companion animal field. An example of this is the need for accurate identification of dogs and cats admitted to the UK under new quarantine requirements.

The membership of the working party on companion animal identification and registration is:

Mr Lou Leather (Chairman)

Mrs Sue Bell

Dr Anne McBride

Mr Ronald Mochrie

Mr John Rogerson

Mr Peter Scott

The working party compiled a “call for evidence” document (see Appendix 1) to address issues surrounding companion animal identification and registration. The call for evidence was distributed in November 1999 to a number of interested parties, including animal welfare charities, local government and police, professional associations and the general public. Details were also placed on the web site so that there was a freely available information service for the public in general. At the same time a press release was written and sent to national, local and trade media detailing the forthcoming study and inviting members of the public to contact CAWC and respond to the call for evidence.

CAWC received a good response to the call for evidence and received a large number of submissions from all areas of the animal welfare industry. To further investigate the issues raised by the calls for evidence document CAWC arranged a two-day oral evidence conference on 12th/13th May 2000 and invited 15 individuals to discuss identification and registration in companion animals. These were specially selected from a wide spread of opinion and took care to include areas where diversity of beliefs or statements were apparent.

Where further clarification was thought to be beneficial to the debate, information was proactively pursued. Ministry statistics were sought where these would help illuminate the debate, as were other statistics relevant to a rounded process of information gathering. It is appreciated that where large amounts of words and figures have contributed to the research of this topic, there may have been limited contributions from some parties who may have been uncertain of the value of their contribution, or uncertain of the details they may best make to help the debate forward. Time itself is always a contributor to the detail offered, with existing demands sometimes curtailing input. We have endeavoured not to be too precise with our restrictions on deadlines, bearing in mind the benefits of flexibility related to an improved final outcome.

The working party for identification and registration are now drafting their interim report. Our aim is to circulate the position paper at that time so that interested parties may observe and comment on the progress to date. A final report will follow soon after that consultation.

Standards and controls for rescue establishments and sanctuaries

Unfortunately it is a regular occurrence that the press carries reports of animal rescue centres where animal welfare has been poor or has reached levels requiring legal intervention. CAWC believes it is important to investigate a need for a regulatory body to set standards that should be met before a rescue centre is permitted to operate, including the need for such centres to be inspected periodically to continue to be registered.

The requirements will vary considerably between companion animal species, but it is considered that a realistic and effective set of standards is important.

The membership of the working party is:

Professor Neil Gorman (Chairman)

Dr Anne McBride

Mrs Barbara Cooper

Dr James Kirkwood

Mr Peter Scott

The working party compiled a call for evidence document (see Appendix 2) to address issues surrounding standards and controls for rescue establishments and sanctuaries. The call for evidence was distributed in November 1999 to a number of interested parties, including animal welfare charities, animal rescue establishments and sanctuaries, professional associations and over 500 local authorities. As with the identification working party, a press release was written and sent to national, local and trade media detailing the forthcoming study and inviting members of the public to contact CAWC and respond to the call for evidence.

CAWC received a good response to the call for evidence and received a substantial number of submissions from all areas of the animal welfare industry. A key topic for CAWC to address was the significant variation in rescue establishments and sanctuaries for companion animals. Of the two there was the perception that rescue establishments showed the greater variation in care. The drive to address this issue came from not only Council members but also from a significant number of representations that had been made to the council. There was however a lack of reasoned evidence to formulate a coherent case that would be persuasive to the public and government officials.

It was generally accepted by respondents that some form of regulation was required in order to develop a consistency in animal care and minimise compromise to animal welfare. The strategy of CAWC has been to define the scale of the problem by first soliciting written evidence and based upon this arrange for a series of oral evidence days to further clarify this. It is hoped that this process will enable CAWC to make a case (to government based upon fact to provide a) for legislative framework to deal with rescue establishments and sanctuaries. There was overwhelming support for CAWC's drive to demonstrate the need for primary legislation.

A formal oral evidence session was arranged in October 2000. Local authorities, rescue charities and veterinary representatives were present. The oral evidence further re-enforced the need for legislation and each group volunteered to help provide evidence to define the scale of the problem. It is hoped that such evidence will be available in the first few months of 2001. A second oral session is being planned to review the data and agree an interim report that can be issued clearly explaining the progress and highlight what are the next key issues. A final report will follow soon after this consultation.

The Working Party saw the unfortunate loss of its Chairperson, Baroness Wharton, in May 2000. The Chairmanship of the Working Party has since been taken over by Professor Neil Gorman.

Future Studies

Companion animals in health and social care institutions

Increasingly it is recognised that companion animals can play an important role in the health and happiness of patients in hospitals, hospices and other institutions. There is a need to develop guidelines for the use of animals in these institutions so that the greatest benefit can be achieved for both animal and patient.

To achieve maximum effect for this study it is proposed that CAWC should join with The Society for Companion Animal Studies (SCAS) so that studies can be conducted in the most efficient way and avoid duplication and competition.

The overall aim of this working group will be:

- To examine and document the evidence base for the placement of companion animals in health and social care institutions, and to make recommendations for the protection of the welfare of both animals and people within the caring environment.

Specific objectives will include:

1. A review of the published evidence describing models of companion animal visiting and residential schemes in hospitals, hospices, nursing and other care homes
2. Detailed examination of the published and other claimed evidence for health, social and other perceived benefits of companion animals in such settings
3. Detailed examination of the published and other claimed evidence of possible harm to the welfare of either the companion animals or humans in these situations

4. Assessment of the overall health, social and financial benefits and costs of the placement of companion animals in health and social care institutions
5. Recommendations for the scope of published standards of care for companion animals and for the conduct of their placement in health and social care institutions
6. Recommendations for the scope of guidelines to cover the training and supervision of volunteers and paid workers who are responsible for the placement of companion animals in health and social care institutions
7. Recommendations for changes to legislations which could protect and enhance the welfare of both humans and animals in these situations

A call for evidence similar to that used in the first two Studies will be produced and distributed widely.

This Working Party will be under the Chairmanship of Professor Sam H Ahmedzai.

Welfare of exotic companion animals – standards and controls

There is an increasing trend to use exotic species as companion animals. Often the basic understanding of the health and welfare of such animals is poorly understood and expectations of the pleasure to be derived from them are sometimes unrealistic and short-lived.

The care and welfare of exotics must start with good advice at the point of acquisition (e.g. pet shops), but continue throughout the ownership of the exotic species. Abandonment into our alien environment may have dramatic consequences to the indigenous species, and establish colonies of non-indigenous species in the wild.

The Working Party will consider:

The nature and scale of trade in, and keeping of, wild animals as pets in the UK.

There is a need for collection of information, by surveys and any methods appropriate, on the range of taxa involved, the number of individuals, and their origins (e.g. wild-caught or captive bred in UK or elsewhere). It may be necessary also to undertake surveys at ports of entry. It may be possible to obtain estimates on the numbers of animals captive-bred in the UK through surveys at pet shops, animal fairs, and through specialist organisations.

Review of existing codes and legislation in the UK, EU and other countries.

What codes and laws cover conservation, health and welfare aspects of wild animals kept as pets in the UK and in other countries?

Standards of housing and husbandry.

Review of ways in which various commonly kept and problem species are housed and managed.

Standards of Welfare.

Assessment of standards of welfare is likely to involve collecting information on, life expectancies, and morbidity and mortality rates at various stages of the life cycle, prevalence of disease, including behavioural abnormalities.

A call for evidence similar to that used in the first two Studies will be produced and distributed widely.

Dr James Kirkwood will Chair this Working Party.

Companion Animals and the Law

This study will be undertaken under the Chairmanship of Mr Mike Radford. This will consider principally dog legislation but will also address other companion animals.

Summary

The Companion Animal Welfare Council has become well established in terms of premises, facilities, secretariat and working party investigations. Financial support for CAWC's activities has been satisfactory and sufficient to pursue an active programme of investigation.

Two investigations, "Identification and Registration" and "Standards and Controls for Rescue Establishments and Sanctuaries" are nearing completion and will be followed by publication of reports on the Working Party findings. Three other investigations have been set up, dealing with Companion Animals in Health and Social Care Institutions, the Welfare of Exotic Animals kept as Companion Animals and Companion Animals and the Law.

There have been three changes in membership of CAWC. Two have arisen due to members acquiring new and additional responsibilities in their daily work which inhibited their availability to contribute to the affairs of CAWC. The third change in membership was due to the sad death of Baroness Wharton. Ziki Wharton was a staunch supporter of CAWC from its very early days. Her unfailing sympathy for the philosophy of CAWC and animal welfare in general will be keenly missed.

Identification and Registration of Companion Animals

Call for Evidence

The Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) has as its principal objectives:

- (a) the provision of advice on the welfare of companion animals and the publication of its findings;
- (b) the furtherance of the fuller understanding of companion animal welfare and of the role of companion animals in society;
- (c) the assessment of existing legislation affecting the welfare of companion animals, and the making of recommendations regarding amendments or additions thereto.

In the furtherance of these objectives, the Council will:

- undertake independent and objective studies of companion animal welfare issues and identify where further information is required
- prepare and publish reports thereon
- make available information and research data that it has obtained, and if appropriate, to enable Parliamentary legislation on companion animal welfare issues to be drafted and debated on an informal basis
- be open to requests for objectives views, advice and the carrying out of independent studies on issues concerned with the welfare of companion animals

The Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) proposes to undertake a study of the need for identification of companion animals and the desirability of registering this identity. The study will include consideration of whether such registration should be mandatory or voluntary.

The need for more accurate and permanent identification of animals has been demonstrated in general, to be important for the control of animal movement associated with disease control, prevention of theft and the identification and recovery of strays and lost animals. The advent of modern techniques such as microchipping, which can contain a variety of data useful for various purposes, has greatly expanded the opportunities for developing databases and to assist in welfare issues.

It is generally accepted that identification of companion animals would encourage responsible ownership. In some cases identification by microchips is a specific requirement for identification (as for importation of dogs and cats from specified countries and not requiring quarantine) but opinions are sharply divided on whether registration should be more general and whether it should be mandatory.

In the recently passed Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act (1999) for example, there is a mandated requirement that all dogs covered by the Act must be identified by a collar with an identifying tag or badge.

The Companion Animal Welfare Council wishes to receive written evidence on this subject including:

- 1. The desirability of permanent identification of companion animals (refer to footnote for definition of companion animals)**
- 2. Which species can be adequately identified and which do not lend themselves to identification**
- 3. What method is most acceptable for identification purposes, is it applicable to all species and what is its useful life**
- 4. What would be the anticipated costs of various identification procedures**
- 5. How would identification affect companion animal ownership**
- 6. What are the major advantages of identification and how would companion animal welfare benefit from such identification**
- 7. What are the advantages and disadvantages of mandatory registration**
- 8. What are the financial implications of:**
 - (a) non mandatory identification**
 - (b) mandatory identification**
 - (c) implementation**
- 9. If a database were to be used for identification and registration, what controls, standards and operational procedures would you envisage**
- 10. What experiences from other countries may it be useful to study**
- 11. Any further comments you wish to make.**

Please indicate whether you are willing to give oral evidence to the working party if invited to do so.

Submissions by: 29th February 2000

Please send responses to: Companion Animal Welfare Council, 20 Queensbury Place, London. SW7 2DZ

* COMPANION ANIMALS – WHAT ARE THEY ?

The relationship between animals and man are of antiquity, some of the earliest being those of religious belief and worship, but dominantly throughout history animals have played a critical role in provision of motive power and of meat, milk and fibre. Many of these contributions remain important today, especially in the developing world. But in the increasingly urban society of the developed world their role has changed considerably, and an important one to be added to the traditional role is that of companionship.

That this role is important is attested by the fact there are some 14 million dogs and cats in the United Kingdom with over 50% , or 1 in 2 households owing a dog or cat.

The use of the phrase “companion animal” is preferred to that of “pet” as not only does the latter tend to be pejorative, implying a lack of any utility, but it also fails to provide an adequate description of the relationship that may grow between man and animals that otherwise mainly do perform utilitarian tasks, for example, horses.

It is recognised that many other species other than dogs and cats contribute to human companionship, such as rabbits, rodents, cage birds, exotic species, and in particular ornamental fish, 30 million at the last estimate. In this group of species it may be difficult to ascribe to them the rich variety of sentient gestures and signals recognised in dogs and cats towards their owners, which are usually interpreted as expressions of attachment and affection. Though, for example, a stick insect or a tortoise cannot be as expressive as a cat or dog in its relationship with an owner, there must be clear stewardship established and accepted for the welfare of that animal and it must be treated as a companion animal rather than merely as a status symbol, an ornament or a plaything.

Hence the phrase “companion animals” covers the whole spectrum of species that might otherwise be considered as “pets”. They have an important role to play in our society. Their welfare is our concern and the Companion Animal Welfare Council is the vehicle to attend to that care.

Standards and Controls for Companion Animal* Rescue

Establishments and Sanctuaries

Call for Evidence

The Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) has as its principal objectives:

- (d) the provision of advice on the welfare of companion animals and the publication of its findings;
- (e) the furtherance of the fuller understanding of companion animal welfare and of the role of companion animals in society;
- (f) the assessment of existing legislation affecting the welfare of companion animals, and the making of recommendations regarding amendments or additions thereto.

In the furtherance of these objectives, the Council will:

- undertake independent and objective studies of companion animal welfare issues and identify where further information is required
- prepare and publish reports thereon
- make available information and research data that it has obtained, and if appropriate, to enable Parliamentary legislation on companion animal welfare issues to be drafted and debated on an informal basis
- be open to requests for objectives views, advice and the carrying out of independent studies on issues concerned with the welfare of companion animals

The Companion Animal Welfare Council (CAWC) proposes to undertake a study of the need to set standards and controls for companion animal welfare establishments.

Unfortunately, it is a regular occurrence that the press carries reports of animal rescue centres where animal welfare has been poor or has reached levels requiring legal intervention. CAWC believes it is important to investigate a need for a regulatory body to set standards that should be met before a rescue centre is permitted to operate, including the need for such centres to be inspected periodically to continue to be registered.

The requirements will vary according to the behaviour needs of the species of companion animal and the quality of life the animal should be expected to be provided.

The Companion Animal Welfare Council wishes to receive written evidence on this subject including:

- 1. Should there be a definition of rescue establishments and/or animal sanctuaries**
- 2. The desirability of setting standards for and control of welfare establishments, including companion animal sanctuaries**
- 3. What species of animal should any standards set refer to – e.g. all species**
- 4. Should rescue establishments and sanctuaries be restricted in the species they take in**
- 5. Is it desirable to set the nature and size of accommodation for a given species according to behavioural characteristics**
- 6. What basic veterinary health care should be provided at rescue establishments and sanctuaries**
- 7. Which authority should administer any regulatory legislations**
- 8. What are the anticipated costs of administration of regulations and how should they be recouped**
- 9. Should animals in establishments and sanctuaries be permanently identified and by what means**
- 10. What qualifications/requirements of personnel are to be expected in rescue establishments and sanctuaries**
- 11. What experiences from other countries would it be useful to study**
- 12. Are there examples of establishments that have been closed down by law due to cruelty or neglect of animals**
- 13. Any further comments you wish to make**

Please indicate whether you are willing to give oral evidence to the working party if invited to do so.

Submissions by: 1st May 2000

Please send responses to: Companion Animal Welfare Council, 20 Queensbury Place, London. SW7 2DZ

* COMPANION ANIMALS – WHAT ARE THEY ?

The relationship between animals and man are of antiquity, some of the earliest being those of religious belief and worship, but dominantly throughout history animals have played a critical role in provision of motive power and of meat, milk and fibre. Many of these contributions remain important today, especially in the developing world. But in the increasingly urban society of the developed world their role has changed considerably, and an important one to be added to the traditional role is that of companionship.

That this role is important is attested by the fact there are some 14 million dogs and cats in the United Kingdom with over 50% , or 1 in 2 households owing a dog or cat.

The use of the phrase “companion animal” is preferred to that of “pet” as not only does the latter tend to be pejorative, implying a lack of any utility, but it also fails to provide an adequate description of the relationship that may grow between man and animals that otherwise mainly do perform utilitarian tasks, for example, horses.

It is recognised that many other species other than dogs and cats contribute to human companionship, such as rabbits, rodents, cage birds, exotic species, and in particular ornamental fish, 30 million at the last estimate. In this group of species it may be difficult to ascribe to them the rich variety of sentient gestures and signals recognised in dogs and cats towards their owners, which are usually interpreted as expressions of attachment and affection. Though, for example, a stick insect or a tortoise cannot be as expressive as a cat or dog in its relationship with an owner, there must be clear stewardship established and accepted for the welfare of that animal and it must be treated as a companion animal rather than merely as a status symbol, an ornament or a plaything.

Hence the phrase “companion animals” covers the whole spectrum of species that might otherwise be considered as “pets”. They have an important role to play in our society. Their welfare is our concern and the Companion Animal Welfare Council is the vehicle to attend to that care.

**COMPANION
ANIMAL WELFARE
COUNCIL**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED
31ST DECEMBER 1999**

COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lord Soulsby	(Chairperson)	Barbara Cooper
Baroness Wharton	(Treasurer)	Dr Andrew Burnie
Dr Sam Ahmedzai		Sue Bell
Ann McBride		Neil Gorman
John Rogerson		Lou Leather
Ronald Mochrie		Peter Scott

ADVISOR

Sir Colin Spedding

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

20 Queensbury Place
London
SW7 2DZ

ACCOUNTANTS

Beer Aplin
23 Longbrook Street
Exeter
EX4 6AD

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
20 Exeter High Street
Exeter
Devon EX4 3LL

SOLICITORS

Hill Dickinson
Sun Court
66 – 67 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3RN

COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

The Chairman presents his report for the period ended 31st December 1999 together with the accounts for the period then ended.

Financial Trust

Welfare Fund for Companion Animals (WFCA).

Charity Number 1070581

WFCA provides funding for the activities of CAWC.

Management of the Companion Animal Welfare Council

The Council is governed by 13 Council members named on Page 10 – 13 of main report. The Council meets 6 times each year to review operations and to decide policy.

Officers of the Council

The Chairman is appointed by the Appointments Committee and is chosen from the members of the Council. Lord Soulsby is currently the Chairman.

The Treasurer is appointed by the Chairman and is chosen from the members of the Council. The Council appointed the late Baroness Wharton as the Council's first Treasurer.

Objects and Policy of the Council

The objects of the council are:

The provision of advice on the welfare of companion animals and the publication of its findings;

The furtherance of the fuller understanding of companion animal welfare and the role of companion animals in society;

The assessment of existing legislation affecting the welfare of companion animals, and the making of recommendations regarding amendments or additions thereto.

In the furtherance of these objectives, the Council will:

Undertake independent and objective studies of companion animal welfare issues and identify where further information is required.

Prepare and publish reports thereon.

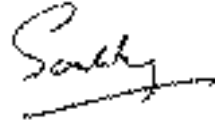
Make available information and research data which it has obtained, in order to enable Parliamentary legislation on companion animal welfare issues to be drafted and debated on an informal basis.

Be open to requests for objective views, advice and the carrying out of independent studies on issues concerned with the welfare of companion animals.

Financial

The Council relies solely on financial support from the Welfare Fund for Companion Animals to fund its activities.

On behalf of the Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Soulsby', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lord Soulsby
Chairman of the Council

THE COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1999

Income

Grants received from Welfare Fund for Companion Animals	£12,000
--	---------

Expenditure

Administration salaries	£ 3,538	
Bank charges and interest	£ 1	
Consultancy fees	£ 350	
Travel expenses	£ 2,774	
Office rent	£ 2,040	
Telephone and facsimile	£ 482	
Launch related expenditure	£ 198	
Cutting service	£ 175	
Meeting costs	£ 117	
Stationery	£ 107	
Depreciation office equipment	£ 559	
Sundries	<u>£ 50</u>	
Total Expenditure		£10,391
Surplus of Income over expenditure		<u>£ 1,609</u>

THE COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET AT 31ST DECEMBER 1999

Fixed Assets

Office equipment	£ 2,234	
Less depreciation at 25% reducing balance	<u>£ 559</u>	
		£ 1,675

Current Assets

Cash at Bank and in hand	-
---------------------------------	----------

Liabilities falling due within one year

Bank overdraft	<u>(£ 66)</u>
----------------	---------------

Net Current Assets	(£ 66)
---------------------------	---------------

Total Assets less Current Liabilities	£ 1,609
--	----------------

Reserves

Surplus of income over expenditure	<u>£ 1,609</u>
------------------------------------	----------------

**COMPANION
ANIMAL WELFARE
COUNCIL**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE 11 MONTHS ENDED
30TH NOVEMBER 2000**

COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Lord Soulsby	(Chairperson)	Barbara Cooper (Treasurer)
Dr Sam Ahmedzai		Sue Bell
Anne McBride		Neil Gorman
John Rogerson		Lou Leather
Ronald Mochrie		Peter Scott
James Kirkwood		Michael Hertage
Michael Radford		

ADVISOR

Sir Colin Spedding

PRINCIPAL OFFICE

20 Queensbury Place
London
SW7 2DZ

ACCOUNTANTS

Beer Aplin
23 Longbrook Street
Exeter
EX4 6AD

BANKERS

Barclays Bank PLC
20 Exeter High Street
Exeter
Devon EX4 3LL

SOLICITORS

Hill Dickinson
Sun Court
66 – 67 Cornhill
London
EC3V 3RN

COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

Chairman's Report

The Chairman presents his report for the eleven months ended 30th November 2000.

Financial Trust

Welfare Fund for Companion Animals (WFCA)
Charity Number 107058

Management of the Companion Animal Welfare Council

The Council is governed by 13 Council members named on Pages 10 – 13 of main report.
The Council meets 6 times each year to review the operations and to decide policy.

Officers of the Council

The Chairman is appointed by the Appointments Committee and is chosen from the members of the Council. Lord Soulsby is currently the Chairman.

The Treasurer is appointed by the Chairman and is chosen from the members of the Council.
The Council appointed the late Baroness Wharton as the Council's first Treasurer. Barbara Cooper was appointed in June 2000.

Objects and Policy of the Council

The objects of the council are:

The provision of advice on the welfare of companion animals and the publication of its findings

The furtherance of the fuller understanding of companion animal welfare and the role of companion animals in society;

The assessment of existing legislation affecting the welfare of companion animals, and the making of recommendations regarding amendments or additions thereto.

In the furtherance of these objectives, the Council will:

Undertake independent and objective studies of companion animal welfare issues and identify where further information is required.

Prepare and publish reports thereon.

Make available information and research data which it has obtained, in order to enable Parliamentary legislation on companion animal welfare issues to be drafted and debated on an informal basis.

Be open to requests for objective views, advice and the carrying out of independent studies on issues concerned with the welfare of companion animals.

Review of the Year

The administrative arrangements for CAWC are now established with accommodation in the Institute of Biology, 20 Queensbury Place, London SW7 2DZ. The facilities have been equipped with the usual office furniture and equipment, including telephone facilities for tele-conferencing.

Two major investigations are nearing completion, one on the Identification and Registration of Companion Animals and one on the Status and Need for Regulation of Animal Shelters and Sanctuaries. Evidence for both these investigations has been sought and obtained nationwide, as well as from selected authorities overseas.

Three other working parties have been initiated on Companion Animals and Legislation, Companion Animals in Human Care Centres and Hospitals and the Role of Exotic Species as Companion Animals.

Three changes have been made in membership of CAWC, replacing original appointments due to acquisition of increased responsibilities in their organisations (new appointments Dr Michael Herrtage – Cambridge; Dr James Kirkwood – University Federation of Animal Welfare) or due to death (Michael Radford).

Financial

The Council relies solely on financial support from the Welfare Fund for Companion Animals to fund its activities.

On behalf of the Council



Lord Soulsby
Chairman of the Council

THE COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE ELEVEN MONTHS ENDED 30TH NOVEMBER 2000

	£	£	£	<u>1999</u>	£
Income					
Grants received from					
Welfare Fund for Companion Animals	£21,000		£12,000		
Expenditure					
Administration salaries	£ 6,600		£ 3,538		
Bank charges and interest	£ 9		£ 1		
Consultancy fees	£ 0		£ 350		
Travel expenses	£ 5,019		£ 2,774		
Office rent	£ 4,827		£ 2,040		
Telephone and facsimile	£ 2,109		£ 482		
Launch related expenditure	£ 0		£ 198		
Cutting service	£ 0		£ 175		
Meeting costs	£ 402		£ 117		
Stationery	£ 350		£ 107		
Depreciation office equipment	£ 493		£ 559		
Sundries	<u>£ 82</u>		<u>£ 50</u>		
Total Expenditure	<u>£19,891</u>		<u>£10,391</u>		
Surplus of Income over expenditure	<u>£ 1,109</u>		<u>£ 1,609</u>		

THE COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL

BALANCE SHEET AT 30th NOVEMBER 2000

Fixed Assets

Office equipment £ 2,531

Less depreciation at 25% reducing balance £ 1,052

£ 1,479

Current Assets

Cash at Bank and in hand £ 1,239

Liabilities falling due within one year

Bank overdraft (£ 00)

Net Current Assets

£ 1,239

Total Assets less Current Liabilities

£ 2,718

Reserves

Surplus of income over expenditure b/fwd £ 1,609

Current period £ 1,109

£ 2,718