

CONFIDENTIAL SUMMARY UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE COUNCIL HELD AT 1045 AM ON 15TH MARCH 2006 IN THE FIELDEN HOUSE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Present: Lord Soulsby (Chairman) (LS)
Prof Ahmedzai (SA)
Mrs S Bell (SB)
Ms B Cooper (BC)
Lady Fretwell (MF)
Prof N Gorman (NG)
Mr M Herrtage (MH)
Dr J Kirkwood (JK)
Professor D Lamb (DL)
Mr L Leather (LL)
Dr A McBride (AM)
Dr J McNicholas (JM)
Dr P Scott (PS)
Mr W Swann (WS)
Sir Colin Spedding (CS)

In attendance: Dr E Svendsen (ES)
Mr A Waldron (AW)

ITEM 1 – APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from: Professor D Mills and Mr M Radford.

1.2 The Chairman read a letter of resignation received from Mr M Radford.

ITEM 2 - MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Sir Colin Spedding noted inconsistencies in terminology relating to working groups and parties; apart from these necessary corrections Council accepted the previously circulated Unconfirmed Minutes and Summary Minutes. The Summary Minutes were to be passed to the Webmaster by the Secretariat for publication.

ITEM 3 - MATTERS ARISING

3.1 The majority of matters arising from the previous meeting were dealt with during the subsequent Agenda items.

ITEM 4 – TREASURERS REPORT

4.1 Ms Cooper updated Council on budgetary matters and, due to the likely 2006 workload, requested an allocation increase in Secretarial and Travel expenses up to £25k and £20k respectively – which was agreed. She reminded Council that the insurance renewal process would be initiated earlier than normal in order to permit time for a formal tender process thus ensuring value for money.

ITEM 5 – FUNDRAISING

5.1 Following a request from the Chairman to WFCa seeking to be updated on current and future potential funding, Dr Svendsen outlined monies at bank and invested. As at 14 March 2006 this totaled some £58k.

5.2 There was discussion regarding the source of potential additional funding. Dr Svendsen advised that some of the current WFCa supporters viewed possible industry support as eroding CAWC independence. Sir Colin was content with monies from industry but indicated that WFCa must be the controlling organisation.

ITEM 6 – CAWC WEBSITE REVIEW

6.1 Dr Scott confirmed that he had refined the opening page photographs of the CAWC website and had adjusted the contents in line with the request from the Secretariat (tasked at Jan meeting of Council). He: agreed that the site would benefit from further refinement; offered to rewrite the software; requested that inputs on content and format be routed through the Secretariat; and asked that a small working group be formed to oversee the project. Lady Fretwell kindly agreed to be a member of the group.

ITEM 7 – POLITICAL REVIEW

7.1 **Animal Welfare Bill and Regulation.** Due to Mr Radford's resignation no information was available on the Animal Welfare Bill and Regulation.

7.2 **Regulation.** The Chairman advised Council that he was to meet with the Chief Veterinary Officers of Scotland and Wales.

7.3 **England Implementation Group (EIG) Meeting Update.** There was considerable discussion regarding the EIG meeting held on March 8th 2006. Mr Swann reminded Council that the EIG was responsible to Ministers and not to DEFRA and that its strategy should reflect true priority issues that were

evidence based thus providing a clear way ahead. Sir Colin Spedding refreshed memories of previous meeting minutes that CAWC should draw the recommendations from its existing reports which should be offered to the EIG as an advisory tool and that CAWC should act in partnership with the EIG. Mr Swann concurred and believed that CAWC should take a leading role. The Chairman indicated that CAWC should propose a way ahead to DEFRA in order determine priorities

ITEM 8 REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

8.1 Before inviting reports from groups, the Chairman advised Council that the potential study topic of Pet Fairs was in abeyance until after he had met with the DEFRA head of Animal Welfare, currently scheduled for 20th April.

8.2 **Companion Animals in Health and Social Care Institutions.** Professor Ahmedzai advised that the report was not yet completed. He was pleased that Drs McBride and McNicholas were to work as co-authors and hoped that the report would be completed post Easter in order that a draft would be available for the July meeting.

8.3 **Working Party on Enforcement and the Animal Welfare Bill.** No report was given due to the unavailability of Mr Radford.

8.4 **Unregulated Companion Animal Services in relation to Training Exercising and Care.** Ms Cooper outlined progress and noted that the Group were meeting later that day and were working towards producing a draft for consideration by Council in May. She also indicated that she would be attending a DEFRA Dog Code working Group meeting on 21st March.

8.5 **Phenotypic Modification Through Selective Breeding or Application of Modern Biotechnology, and the Welfare of Companion Animals.** Dr Kirkwood noted that the latest revision of the Report had been recirculated to Council and that no comments had been received. The Chairman stated that launch date options were under discussion with the House of Commons' staff.

8.6 **Methods of Welfare Assessment for Companion Animals.** Mr Swann reported that the draft report was being circulated to Group members for comment.

8.7 **Dog Breeding.** Scoping the potential Dog Breeding study topic was to be undertaken during pm on the 15th March. However, due to the departure of Mr Radford a new Chairman was required – Mr Herrtage kindly agreed to lead the Group.

8.8 **Surveillance.** Dr Kirkwood reported that preliminary scoping of the possible Surveillance study had yet to be undertaken.

8.9 Rehoming Protocols. Professor Lamb confirmed that a short Protocol paper had been prepared and this was circulated during the meeting; the Chairman indicated that it appeared most useful.

8.10 E Mail Data. The Chairman requested that current e mail addresses of Council be circulated by the Secretariat.

ITEM 9 – POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

9.1 The Chairman requested that Members input nominations for Council, through the Secretariat, ideally in order that selection should take place before the Summer. He also advised that he was meeting with the Chairman of the Appointments Committee on 10th May.

ITEM 10 – RE-APPOINTMENT OF ADVISOR TO COUNCIL

10.1 The Chairman reminded Members that Sir Colin Spedding, the advisor to Council, required annual re-appointment. Sir Colin was proposed by Mr Swann, seconded by Mrs Bell and the vote was carried unanimously.

ITEM 11 – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 No formal AOB items had been notified prior to the meeting

ITEM 12 – DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

12.1 It was agreed that the next meeting, 8 May 2006, should be in London.

March 2006