

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CAWC COUNCIL HELD ON
21 MARCH 2005 AT THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE, LONDON**

Present: Lord Soulsby (Chairman)
Professor S Ahmedzai
Mrs S Bell
Lady Fretwell
Professor N Gorman
Dr J Kirkwood (Deputy Chairman)
Mr R Mochrie (Treasurer)
Mr M Radford
Sir Colin Spedding
Mr W Swann

In attendance: Mrs C D Baldock

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Mrs B Cooper, Mr M Herrtage, Mr L Leather, Dr A McBride, Mr P Scott.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of CAWC Council held on 24 January 2005 were approved and signed as a correct record. The draft Summary of the 24 January 2005 meeting of CAWC Council was approved for distribution on the CAWC Website.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

a) FAWC response to the Government on setting up an independent advisory body to consider the welfare implications to animals of phenotypic modification

The Chairman had not yet received a reply from Professor Wathes on this matter.

b) Correspondence with Ms H Alderman, BVA, Mr E Chandler of AHT and Brigadier Jepson, the Home of Rest for Horses re: support for CAWC

The Chairman said that on 15 March he, Dr Kirkwood, Mr Swann and Sir Colin Spedding had met Mr Chandler, Col Green from Battersea Dogs Home and Ms Baldwin from Dogs Trust for dinner to discuss the points raised in Mr Chandler's letter. The Chief Executives who had expressed concern would now probably support CAWC. Council considered the letter from Brigadier Jepson, in which he said that the Home of Rest for Horses (HRH) had decided to put its money into NEWC rather than into CAWC. The Chairman had expressed disappointment that HRH was going down this road. CAWC did not wish to take over the whole equine field but wanted to work together with the equine bodies on welfare matters. He had suggested that they should meet over lunch or dinner to iron out the problems.

Council considered creating another level of supporters and friends at a lower level, and then tell them what CAWC was about. It would be unfortunate if organisations that were donating money elsewhere could not, on purely financial grounds, say that they were supporters of CAWC. Some organisations did not seem to understand that any strategy on welfare matters would have to make representations to the Government. It was envisaged that this second group of supporters would be those that did not have a great

deal of cash. Those supporters that did give money would clearly have to be given the appropriate acknowledgement. When supporters gave donations the majority signed up for three years. A second group at a lower level might be considered when the first had all been signed up. CAWC had told Defra it hoped it would not be too difficult to raise money from the private sector and it had not yet gone to the private industry sector where there might well be some support.

c) New members for CAWC Council

Council received a paper giving the biographical details of the three candidates for appointment as new members of CAWC Council. The Chairman said that at its last meeting Council had ranked these three names, two to replace people who had either resigned from Council or had not been reappointed because of their lack of attendance at meetings, and a further person to add to the number of Council members to make it easier to appoint people to working parties. The Chairman said that none of the people nominated had been told of the proposal, the names had to go to the Appointments Committee first.

d) Secretarial arrangements for CAWC

The Chairman said that at the last meeting he had reported that the Secretary felt the need to retire from CAWC. He had asked her to stay on for the next few months to get over this very busy period and he was happy to report that she had agreed to do so. The members of Council thanked her very much for her work on behalf of CAWC. The Chairman said it was very useful to have the Secretary liaising with Defra at the present time and to have her present at meetings with Defra.

e) Retirement of the Treasurer

The Chairman informed Council that the Treasurer wished to offer his resignation from Council and also his position as Treasurer. He hoped that someone from Council would be found to take over as Treasurer. The Chairman said he was very sad to see the Treasurer giving up his post and leaving Council. The Treasurer said he was prepared to serve as Treasurer until July 2005 if that was required, by which time the audit would have been carried out and the accounts approved. Most of the work could be done in around 2½ days per month and he thought CAWC had now reached the stage where maybe someone else with more background and experience could serve the Council better. A discussion followed to consider the replacement of the Treasurer.

f) Re-appointment of Lord Soulsby as Chairman of CAWC for a further 3 years

The Chairman said his re-appointment had gone to the Appointments Committee for approval. The members would be dealing with this when they met.

4. THE CAWC SEMINAR FOR SUPPORTERS – 21 MARCH 2005

The Chairman said everything seemed to be in order for the Seminar. Drinks and lunch would be served at 12.30 pm and the meeting would start at 1.45 pm. Attendees had the minutes of the previous meeting with their papers. There would be a brief report on the history of CAWC and a review of the function of WFCA. Copies of CAWC's Reports and the Annual Report for 2003 would be available at the meeting. There would be a report on CAWC's finances from the Treasurer, followed by information on the Grant Agreement from Defra. Reports would be given by the Chairmen of CAWC's working parties and there would be a discussion about future working parties for CAWC, followed by an open discussion and tea, which would close the meeting. It was agreed that a member of the Working Party on Unregulated Services would present the report on the working party's progress and would answer questions.

5. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Council received the CAWC's Draft Financial Statements for 2004 and the CAWC Income and Expenditure Budget for 2005. CAWC's Income and Expenditure to 4 March 2005

was also received. The Treasurer said the draft Financial Statements for 2004 contained the Chairman's report on the year. The statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 December 2004 was given on page 7 and contained the same figures that had been given at the last meeting, the only difference being that adjustments had been made for insurance and depreciation. There had been a small surplus at the end of the year. The Budget had been based on last year's figures and information from the working parties. These figures were ready to go to the Auditor when Council had approved them. Council approved that the Financial Statements should go to the Auditor.

The Budget for 2005 included the grant for the year from Defra. Secretarial expenses in the budget had increased and included an amount to cover the cost of extra secretarial help. If one tracked the travel expenses for 2003, 2004 and 2005 they would be seen to have doubled during that period. The figures might attract comment from some of the people at the Seminar. There were also significant increases in the costs for stationery, printing, postage and photocopying. The Council had become more active and so the costs had risen. CAWC had also invited some people from outside CAWC to participate in the working parties and had had to cover their expenses. CAWC was doing more and being asked to do more by Defra, and this had led to the increase in printing, etc. At the dinner with the CEOs on 15 March it was felt that there should be more meetings with sponsors to keep them up to date with CAWC's activities. The Chairman asked if Council was content with the budget for 2005. Council agreed that it was content.

The Statement of Financial Activities for 2002, 2003 and 2004 and the Balance Sheet at 31 December 2004 were received. The Treasurer reported that the actual income and expenditure to 4 March 2005 had no abnormal expenses and CAWC had a balance of £5,517 at the bank. The other papers that had been tabled would be presented at the Seminar.

6. POLITICAL REPORT

The minutes of the meeting between Defra and CAWC, held on 24 January 2005, were received. Council considered a letter to the Chairman from Ms K Newland, Defra and the draft Grant Agreement between Defra, CAWC and WFCA. The Chairman said CAWC now had a Grant Agreement with Defra rather than a Memorandum of Understanding. This had been circulated for comment and no one had raised any serious comment, everyone seemed happy with it. The terms of agreement could be seen as a gesture of goodwill towards CAWC from Defra, and Defra had agreed to all the points made by CAWC. The Chairman said CAWC had a very good team of people, all highly competent in their own areas. It was a pleasure to be the Chairman of such a group, which was capable of producing very good reports, well written and with good prose.

7. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

a) Companion Animals in Health and Social Care Institutions.

One of the difficulties was that the inquiry was not just about animals but was about humans as well. Many recommendations would not fit with the usual format, which was purely about animal welfare. There was a lot more detail to come.

b) Working Parties on Enforcement and the Animal Welfare Bill.

This report would be a purely verbal statement and would also serve as a report to Council.

c) Un-Regulated Companion Animal Services in Relation to Training, Exercising and Care

Council received a Report on the progress of the Working Party. A précis of the Working Party Report was available for the Seminar.

d) Phenotypic Modification through Selective Breeding or Application of Modern Biotechnology, and the Welfare of Companion Animals.

Council received the Minutes of the Working Party meeting held on 17 February 2005. The next meeting of the Working Party would be held on Thursday 28 April 2005.

e) Methods of Welfare Assessment for companion animals. Working party Report for Seminar

A Report on the progress of the Working Party was received and a format for the final Report was tabled for information. The first full meeting of the Working Party had been held two weeks ago and he had been very pleased with the way it went.

f) Possible New Inquiries:

The Chairman said five topics for possible new inquiries had been listed, and asked Council members if they thought any of the topics should be deleted. They were:

- a) a comparison of legislation in different countries
- b) electronic training aids
- c) balancing the welfare costs of veterinary interventions to prolong life
- d) the linkage between animal abuse and the abuse of children and people
- e) an investigation into the psychology behind the human/animal relationship.

The Chairman felt there would be strong debate about electronic training aids; the Kennel Club particularly was concerned that Defra was not outlawing them. However, it did not come into the remit of the current group. It was suggested that CAWC should wait to see what reforms came out of the Veterinary Surgeons Act. The Chairman said a Committee at the BVA was already looking into this subject and it might not be necessary for CAWC to look at it. This seemed to be straying into ground that CAWC should not get into. It was for the RCVS to regulate veterinary procedures.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held in the Committee Room at 2 Millbank, Westminster, at 10.45 am on Monday 23 May 2005.

27 April 2005

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