

**SUMMARY OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF CAWC COUNCIL HELD ON
23 MAY 2005 AT THE BVA, 7 MANSFIELD STREET, LONDON**

Present: Mrs S Bell
Mrs B Cooper
Lady Fretwell
Dr J Kirkwood (Deputy Chairman)
Mr L Leather
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 Professor S Ahmedzai, Professor N Gorman, Mr M Herrtage, Dr A McBride, Mr P Scott and Lord Soulsby (Chairman). The Deputy Chairman said he wished to record how sorry the members of Council felt about the Chairman's illness. Council members sent the Chairman their very best wishes for his recovery.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of CAWC Council held on 21 March 2005 were approved.

Council received the draft Summary of the minutes of the 21 March 2005 meeting of CAWC Council. The draft 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:

Council received a letter from Professor C Wathes, Chairman of FAWC, to the Chairman. A letter of 23 November 2004 from Dr J MacArthur Clark to Mr Ben Bradshaw MP was received. Dr Kirkwood's Report on CAWC's view on the proposed independent advisory body was received. The Summary of Recommendations from the June 2004 FAWC Report on the welfare implications of animal breeding and breeding technologies in commercial agriculture was received. Options for the future were discussed and the Deputy Chairman undertook to discuss the matter with the Chairman.

b) CAWC Treasurer and Secretary

Council received a paper from the Chairman dealing with the future resignations of the CAWC Treasurer and Secretary. The original full time job description for the CAWC Secretary and an email about additional secretarial help for CAWC were also received.

It was suggested that one option might be to appoint someone to take on the secretarial side who could deal with routine accounting matters. One person on the Council would then be appointed as the formal Treasurer to oversee the work and take decisions. Mrs

Cooper said that under these conditions she would be happy to carry out the role of Treasurer. It was agreed to update the Secretarial Job Description to show the new duties that the Secretary would have to do. The Treasurer agreed to provide a job description for the role of Treasurer. CAWC Council members agreed to let the Deputy Chairman know if any of their contacts were interested in the job of CAWC Secretary and would report back to the Deputy Chairman within 10 days. A sub-group of Council would be set up to take the arrangements forward.

c) Meeting of the CAWC Appointments Committee

A meeting of the Appointments Committee had been arranged for 7 June 2005 in the House of Lords. The Chairman of the Committee, Sir David Williams, would Chair the meeting and Lord Soulsby would be contacted by telephone should his advice be needed.

d) The CAWC Seminar for Supporters

Council approved the minutes of the 21 March 2005 CAWC Seminar for Supporters, subject to the addition of the phrase '(now Dogs Trust)' after National Canine Defence League in line 2 of the second paragraph of 4c). The minutes would now be sent out to those who had attended the meeting.

e) Possible New Inquiries

The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Mr Swann had attended a meeting at Defra on 21st April to discuss future topics for CAWC inquiries, including the following that CAWC had, at its previous meeting, identified as possible topics:

- i) a comparison of legislation in different countries;
- ii) electronic training aids;
- iii) balancing the welfare costs of veterinary interventions to prolong life;
- iv) the linkage between animal abuse and the abuse of children and people;
- v) an investigation into the psychology behind the human/animal relationship.

It was agreed that CAWC would give further consideration to starting work on an inquiry into 'The Advertising and Sale of Companion Animals' in the autumn of 2005. An inquiry comparing specific aspects of legislation in different countries could also be helpful, as could an inquiry into electronic training aids.

It was agreed that the other topics for inquiries would go on the back burner.

4. REPORT FROM THE TREASURER

Council received the CAWC Income and Expenditure Report as at 18 April 2005. The Treasurer said the report was straightforward, CAWC had a liquid balance and expenditure was going as expected.

The Audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2004 were received. Council formally accepted the audited accounts and agreed that the Financial Statements should be sent to the Chairman to be signed off.

Council received a paper from the Donkey Sanctuary listing the future funding promised by the animal welfare charities.

5. POLITICAL REPORT

a) Defra's request for a CAWC Report on Regulation

The Chairman of the Working Party on Enforcement and the Animal Welfare Bill said he would deal with items 5a and 6b from the agenda under this heading. It was agreed that a response to the draft Scottish AWB would be drafted and emailed to Council members within the next week.

b) Meeting between Defra and CAWC held on 21 April 2005

The agenda and minutes for the meeting between CAWC and Defra on 21 April were received.

6. REPORTS FROM WORKING PARTIES

a) Companion Animals in Health and Social Care Institutions

No update was forthcoming from the Chairman of this CAWC Working Party.

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

The Deputy Chairman said it would be helpful to the rest of Council if the Chairman of the Working Party could prepare a paper for Council outlining the methods, the results and the conclusions for a Report on this subject, and thus the basis for any recommendations made. The Chairman of the Working Group agreed to do this.

c) 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 28 April. The Chairman of the Working Party said he was not far from having the interim draft Report ready to go to Council. It would then be sent out to the people who had received the Call for Evidence and he hoped the final Report would be produced by the end of the year.

d) Methods of Welfare Assessment for companion animals

The Chairman of this Working Party said there was nothing to report at the moment, he was putting things together and hoped to have something ready for the next Council meeting.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held at the BVA on Monday 11 July 2005 at 10.45am.