

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP

Cross-Party Group on Animal Welfare

DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

9 July 2021

DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM

11 September 2024

DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED

7 October 2024

DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11-13 months of the previous AGM]

29 September 2023

GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

29th September 2023

**Present
MSPs**

Grahame C (Christine), MSP

Colin Smyth MSP

Chapman M (Maggie), MSP

Harper E (Emma), MSP

Golden M (Maurice), MSP

Gallacher M (Meghan), MSP

Ruskell M (Mark), MSP

Non-MSP Group Members

Coe K (Karen)

Libby

Jill Stewart

Charlotte McNamara

Holton L (Lynda)

Stewart Donald, Canine Concern Scotland Trust

Gareth Hateley

Roberts A (Aimee)

Charity Manager

Skipper, Alison

amanda dovesi

Richard Woodward

Graeme Corbett

Kirsty Jenkins

Kirsteen MacKenzie

Caroline Robinson

Leanne McPake

Holly Conway

Madison Rogers

Natalie Harney

Lauren Wards

Rae Walters

Zofia Bekas

Apologies

Jake Swindells, Countryside Alliance

Justice for Reggie

Marie McNair MSP

Tatevik Hovhannisyan. Vegetarian for Life

Romain Pizzi BVSc MSc

BASC

Minutes - agreed by members

AGM Business – chaired by Lynda Holton

Election of Convener: Christine Grahame MSP proposed by Maurice Golden MSP, seconded by Emma Harper MSP.

Election of Vice Convener: Maurice Golden MSP proposed by Maggie Chapman MSP, seconded by Christine Grahame MSP.

Election of Vice Convener: Colin Smyth MSP proposed by Libby Anderson, seconded by Christine Grahame MSP.

Secretary: Karen Coe proposed by Christine Grahame MSP, seconded by Maggie Chapman MSP

Agenda item 1

Presentation by Charlotte McNamara of the Kennel Club-

Breeding, Buying and Bringing Up Brachycephalic Dogs Better

“There is currently widespread concern surrounding the health and welfare of popular brachycephalic types of dog, such as Pugs, Bulldogs and French Bulldogs” - The Kennel Club,

Q&A –

Included questions about reach and engagement, the use of webinar support available to all, the addition of rabbits and cats that are effected, The amount of breeders and the challenge to reach them all, only responsible breeders and owners is recommended, health and future problems is an issue. What can Govts do, banning not the answer, small issues can make a difference and can be included in registration, irresponsible breeders and owners are a problem. Better enforcement of registration and educate new buyers, advertisers and insurance companies. BVA keen to get involved. Is banning Brachycephalic Dogs due to the health issues a solution or not workable.

MSP Updates

Colin Smyth MSP update (by email)

Amendment expected at Stage 2 of the Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill. Keen that any ban follows Wales with no loopholes (i.e no use of snares even under licence and no use of so-called "humane holding devices" as an alternative). Recently attended and spoke in support of a ban on greyhound racing at the Grey2kUSA Worldwide conference. Hosted the RSPB Nature of Scotland Awards Shortlisting event in Parliament. Have been working with the RSPB on the issue of the impact of commercial forestry on the red squirrel population, tabling a number of questions.

Maggie Chapman MSP update

Sending it to secretary

Emma Harper MSP update

Update of sheep attack by dogs, Emma has written to the Lord Advocate.

Mark Ruskell MSP update

Attended Grey2kUSA Worldwide conference held in Edinburgh, Phase out Greyhound Racing consultation, proposal for bill.

Christine Grahame MSP update

Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill. Christine praised colleagues in Parliament for their support for Animal Welfare. Strong cross party support for Animal Welfare Issues.

Future Agenda Discussed

Proposed date of next virtual meeting - Friday 17th November at 2pm
Agenda may include Nature Scot update and Shock Collar update.

17th November 2023

Present

MSPs

Christine Grahame MSP
Colin Smyth MSP

Invited guests

Lynda Holton
Aimee Roberts
Amanda Dovesi
Zofia Bekas
Edna Elliot-McColl

Non-MSP Group Members

Karen Coe - Secretary AW CPG
Fiona Howie – SRUC
Paul Reynolds – New Ark
Stewart Donald – Canine Concern
Freddy Bowen-Tate – Animal Concern
Donald Frazer – NatureScot
Keith Marley – New Ark
Stuart Forbes – Blue Cross
Kirsty Jenkins – OneKind
Alice Palombo – Cats.Org
Danielle Knight – The Kennel Club
John Burns – World Horse Welfare
Graeme Corbett – Animal Concern
Elspeth Stirling – Scottish Badgers
Liz McLauchlan – NatureScot

Apologies

Liz Omerod – SCAS Chairman
Maurice Golden – Conservative MSP
Mark Ruskell – Green MSP
Marie McNair – SNP MSP
Maggie Chapman – Green MSP
Emma Harper – SNP MSP
Rae Walters – Rabbit Welfare

Agenda item 1

Minutes agreed Colin Smyth & Lynda Holton

Agenda item 1

Talk & Presentation by Liz McLaughlan & Donald Frazer of NatureScot
Including species licensing approach, 'The three tests', That there is a licensable purpose; That there is no satisfactory alternative; and. That the action authorised will

not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.

Using shared approach with stakeholders and Scottish Animal Welfare Commission regarding Biodiversity, Climate Crisis, including domestic and wild animals.

Welcome a Bute House agreement review regarding all 90 licensing types etc

Q & A

Are additional licences needed for Animal Welfare Centres – no.

Badgers should have habitat protection not just species protection.

Regarding new developments - Developers must apply for licences and one named person is responsible, usually Project Manager

Any licences applied for regarding Hunting with Dogs – nothing approved

Can the public see who has applied for a licence and if it was approved – not yet.

Are licences issued regarding flooding and damage to crops and Rail lines – yes.

MSP Update

Colin Smyth – Working on Banning Snaring, Debating Wildlife Management and Muirburn (Scotland) Bill, interested in any developments with regard to Hunting with Dogs, Avian Flu still effecting Barnacle Geese in Colin's area but recovering, pushing for banning greyhound racing & shock collars.

Colin is Species Champion for Badgers so working with SSPCA Special Investigations regarding Badger Baiting.

He wishes to thank all Stakeholders and Welfare Charities for their invaluable insight and knowledge.

Christine Grahame – Working hard on Welfare of Dogs Bill, which will promote Education before purchase, certificate, and registration, but registration may have to fail in order for the bill to move forward, Christine wants to change public behaviour before purchase, Christine giving evidence, Stage 2 and amendments to come.

AOB

Ideas for next meeting to be emailed to secretary, Wildcat Project & Welfare of Animals Abroad suggested.

Date of next meeting TBA.

26th April 2024

Present

MSPs

[CHAIR] Christine Grahame MSP (SNP)

Colin Smyth MSP (Scottish Labour)

Emma Harper MSP (SNP)

Maggie Chapman MSP (Scottish Green Party)

Invited guests

Dan Jarvis – British Divers Marine Life Rescue

Non-MSP Group Members

Gareth Hateley – British Veterinary Association
Caroline Robinson – SRUC
Danielle Knight – The Kennel Club
Dr Elspeth Stirling – Scottish Badgers
Edna Elliot-McColl
Georgie Hancock – The Humane League
Graeme Corbett – Animal Concern
Helene Mauchlen – British Horse Society
Jake Swindells – Countryside Alliance
Jessica Terry – World Animal Protection
Richard Ackers – Justice for Reggie
Kirsty Jenkins – OneKind
Tricia Colville – British Small Animal Veterinary Association
Paul Reynolds – New Arc Wildlife Rescue
Molly Vasantha
Libby Anderson
Karen Coe
Lynda Holton (Secretary)

Agenda item 1 – Apologies

Mark Ruskell MSP (Scottish Green Party)
Morgan Brobyn – British Egg Industry Council
Sarah Johnston – Edinburgh Dog & Cat Home
Robert Mcgeachy – Food Standards Scotland
John Burns – World Horse Welfare

Agenda item 2 – Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of previous meeting agreed by Maggie Chapman MSP and Colin Smyth MSP.

Agenda item 3 – Change of Secretary

Change of Secretary agreed from Karen Coe to Lynda Holton.

Agenda item 4 – Presentation and talk: ‘Seal disturbance as a growing problem: issues and solutions’ by Dan Jarvis, Director of Welfare & Conservation, British Divers Marine Life Rescue

Key points raised during presentation:

- Issues include disturbance by air (drones and aircraft); sea (powered vessels and watersports including paddle sports); and land (proximity of people on land, noise and dogs e.g. dogs running into colonies). The problem is largely around lone seal pups e.g. anti-social behaviour such as pups being picked up by humans (‘selfie’ culture) or attacked by dogs. Some haulout sites in UK disturbed every 14 minutes.
- Impacts include disturbed rest (as seals need time on land), energetic loss, injury, maternal separation, miscarriage and even death.
- Solutions include in-situ methods (such as signs, leaflets, rangers, fencing); ex-situ (media releases, social media, public talks, code of conduct); policy and law (site protection, seal protection, enforcement). Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 and

Protection of Seals Order 2014 already exists for seals in Scotland but enforcement slow/limited. Video evidence is helpful but enforcement must be robust. Recommend: remote monitoring on all commercial fishing vessels and replicate efforts to add to Schedule 5 of Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (England).

Agenda item 5 – Q&A

Questions/comments were made on the following topics:

- Markers for when seals may need to be uplifted.
- Primary drivers of redistribution.
- How to join the Seal Alliance (go to website, email Chair).
- Review of seal site protection designations.
- Accidental disturbances.
- Education of children/in schools re seal disturbance.
- Remote electronic monitoring (REM).
- Definition of disturbance.
- Frisbee petition.

Agenda item 6 – MSP Update

Colin Smyth MSP: Wildlife Management and Muirburn Bill now passed. Agriculture Bill Stage 2 – Colin proposing amendment re including animal welfare as an objective.

Maggie Chapman MSP: XL Bully issue ongoing. Been in touch with SSPCA Aberdeenshire re links between livestock farming and climate.

Emma Harper MSP: Dealing with local cases. Re livestock attacks – questions to FM and Minister Jim Fairlie. Has requested meeting with Cabinet Secretary.

Christine Grahame MSP: opposed XL Bully legislation due to concerns re definition; deed not breed best approach. Welfare of Dogs Bill Stage 1 debate expected 7th May. Registration scheme not supported by Scottish Government so will concede that part. However, still pursuing national microchipping database for dogs. Ban on glue traps in Wildlife Management and Muirburn Bill – Scottish Government left door open to enable exceptions in certain circumstances so not a complete ban.

Agenda item 7 – AOB

Libby Anderson: UK Centre for Animal Law (A-LAW) online debate on 30th April about pet theft.

Helene Mauchlen: equine exhibition taking place in Parliament next week which will raise prospect of database for horses.

Gareth Hateley: shortage of people available to type animals.

Agenda item 8 – Next meeting

Date of next meeting agreed for early September (post-summer recess). Chair suggested trying it as an in-person meeting in Parliament. Agreed to try it as a hybrid meeting (part in-person, part online).

Possible topics for future presentations discussed. Secretary advised that two requests had been made to make presentations as follows:

- Low-Welfare Animal Activities Abroad Bill – World Animal Protection
- On-farm poisoning from lead – Food Standards Scotland

No objections to either.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Christine Grahame, Scottish National Party

Colin Smyth, Scottish Labour

Maurice Golden, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Maggie Chapman, Scottish Green Party

Emma Harper, Scottish National Party

Meghan Gallacher, Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Marie McNair, Scottish National Party

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Libby Anderson

Edna Elliot-McColl

Dr Elspeth Stirling

Seonaig Johnston

Jane Stirling

Romain Pizzi

Elaine Henley

George Leslie

Nigel Miller

Paul Michael Reynolds BSc (Hons), MSc

Organisations	Animal Aid Animal and Plant Health Agency Animal Concern Animal Equity Animal Welfare Foundation Animal Welfare Investigations Project Battersea Blue Cross Borders Pet Rescue Born Free Foundation British Association of Shooting and Conservation British Deer Society British Divers Marine Life Rescue British Egg Industry Council British Horse Racing British Horse Society British Small Animal Veterinary Association British Veterinary Association British Wildlife Rehabilitation Council Canine Concern Scotland Trust Cats Protection Compassion in World Farming Volunteer Group Countryside Alliance Dog Theft Facebook Group Dogs Trust Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home Edinburgh Zoo Farmers for Stock Free Farming Fostering Compassion Food Standards Scotland Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust Grey2Kusa Greyhound Welfare Horse Rescue Scotland
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	<p>International Fund for Animal Welfare</p> <p>Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education</p> <p>Justice for Reggie</p> <p>National Anti Snaring Campaign</p> <p>Nature Scot</p> <p>Naturewatch Foundation</p> <p>Naturewatch</p> <p>New Arc Wildlife Rescue</p> <p>Nourish Scotland</p> <p>OneKind</p> <p>Perth and Kinross Council</p> <p>Rabbit Welfare</p> <p>Revive</p> <p>SAGE Scotland Against Greyhound Exploitation</p> <p>Scottish Association for Country Sports</p> <p>Scottish Badgers</p> <p>Scottish Land and Estates</p> <p>Scottish Racing</p> <p>Scottish Rural and Agricultural College</p> <p>Scottish Salmon</p> <p>Society for Companion Animal Studies</p> <p>Scottish SPCA</p> <p>The Humane League</p> <p>The Kennel Club</p> <p>Vegetarian for Life</p> <p>West Pilton & West Granton Community Council</p> <p>Whale and Dolphin Conservation</p> <p>World Horse Welfare</p>
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GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Christine Grahame MSP
Deputy Convener	Maurice Golden MSP Colin Smyth MSP Maggie Chapman MSP
Secretary	Lynda Holton
Treasurer	N/A

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

N/A

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Christine Grahame MSP
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Parliamentary address	M4.02 The Scottish Parliament EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5729