

Fourth Annual AWNW Conference - 21.10.09 **The Greyhound, Builth Wells**

In Attendance:

AWNW Co-ordinator - Tina Reece

Board Members:

RSPCA Cymru – Claire Lawson (AWNW Chair and TSPC Rep)
British Horse Society – Wendy Davies (AWNW Membership Officer)
Dogs Trust – Sian Edwards (AWNW Information Officer)
Greyhound Rescue Wales – Alain Thomas (AWNW Deputy TSPC Rep)
World Horse Welfare – Philip Jones (AWNW Treasurer)

Speakers:

Welsh Assembly Government – Fiona Leadbitter
Torfaen County Council – Alison Hughes

Members:

Hope Rescue – Vanessa Waddon
Pit Pony Sanctuary – Roy Peckham
Catwel Cardiff – Janet Jauregui
Catnip – Liz Thomas
Cats Protection – Catherine Smith
Folland Ferret Rescue – Steve Hull
Global Animal Welfare Solutions – Glyn Roberts
Powys County Council – Sue King
Redwings Horse Sanctuary – Nicolas De Brauwere
Tamlin Watson Pet Behaviour and Training – Tamlin Watson

Item 1: Welcome

Claire Lawson (RSPCA):

- Welcomed everyone to the conference and thanked them for attending.
- Introduced herself and asked everyone in the room to also introduce themselves.
- Stated that 2009 had been a very interesting year in legislation for Welsh animal welfare with a code of practice for dogs, cats and equines under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and a code of practice for rabbits currently tabled to become legislation before the end of November.
- Said that there were also likely to be some exciting announcements at the Welsh Assembly Government's animal welfare conference being held in November. The areas covered could

include the shock collar regulations, legislation on wild animals in circuses and regulations for the keeping and racing of greyhounds.

- Also stated that a change of government after the election may impact on the agenda for animal welfare in the future.
- Mentioned the Sanctuaries Seminar held by the network in Llandudno back in June, which was very well attended by members and Local Authorities and sparked a great deal of interesting discussion. The network is now resourcing a working group to be held in Cardiff Bay in December. WAG have committed to attend this event as observers and Mike Radford from Aberdeen University will be consulted with the aim of producing a report to present to government.

Item 2: Committee Report

Claire Lawson (RSPCA)

- Presented the committee report to the AGM and read through the main points. Asked for any questions or comments on its contents. A number of suggestions were made from the floor:
 - It was suggested that the Network could have a role training vet students about welfare and prosecutions.
 - The Co-ordinator was asked to compile a map showing the physical location of all of the Network's members.
 - It was pointed out that the information on member's volunteer hours collected during the membership review should be used in some way by the Board to advertise the worth of the sector to government.

FINANCIAL

Claire Lawson (RSPCA)

- As the Network Treasurer Karen Davies was unable to attend the AGM, Claire Lawson presented the annual financial report to plenary for their agreement.

Agreed Unanimously

ELECTION OF NEW BOARD

Claire Lawson (RSPCA)

- Explained that there were three positions open to new Board members this year due to the implementation of the two year term agreed at last year's AGM. Of the three Board members who had elected to stand down, two were again nominated for this year's positions and were elected unopposed. This has left one position on the Board available for co-option by the Board. The Board members elected for 2009-2010 were:
 - Wendy Davies – British Horse Society – elected until AGM 2011-2012
 - Phil Jones – World Horse Welfare – elected until AGM 2011-2012
 - Sian Edwards – Dogs Trust – elected until AGM 2010-2011
 - Alain Thomas – Greyhound Rescue Wales – elected until AGM 2010-2011
 - Karen Davies – British Veterinary Association – elected until AGM 2010-2011
 - Claire Lawson – Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals – ex-officio

PRESENTATIONS

Two presentations were made to the AGM on the CAWES scheme by Fiona Leadbitter of the Welsh Assembly Government, and Alison Hughes from Torfaen County Council.

FACILITATION EXERCISE

Main priorities for improving CAWES and third sector partners:

- Consistent chairs: different chairs – different practices, can't create comfortable atmosphere, less clear commitment to objective. 2 votes.
- Pre-planning by chairs together – teleconference. 1 vote.
- Is four the right amount of forums? More fora? 3 votes.
- More focused agenda. May have tried to cover too much. High quality speaker. 1 vote.
- Focus on educational component relevant to small organisations or practical topics such as fundraising. 5 votes.
- Invitation to a third sector member to speak about themselves. 2 votes.
- A stand for volunteer organisations. 0 votes.
- Training in facilitation skills. 0 votes.
- Influence on change – outcomes. 2 votes.
- Tangible benefits for small organisations. 2 votes.
- Structure mail outs so minutes capture useful points. Actions and information/contact details to be included for those mentioned. 4 votes.
- Invite points for agenda under headings above. Ability to influence information. 2 votes.
- Marketing and media strategy. Face to face networking. WAG to do something nation-wide, outline what they are doing and intend to do and what the third sector can contribute. Newsletters including a third sector and Local Authority brief with bullet points. Use newspapers, TV and local radio to publicise CAWES. 6 votes.
- Training in marketing. 0 votes.
- Can't make them come if they are not able to. 0 votes.
- Some third sector organisations need more information regarding big issues within a strategic context. 1 vote.