

**Dyfed-Powys Companion Animal Welfare Forum
On Friday 21 August 2009
At
Ferryside Education Centre, Carmarthen Road,
Ferryside**

Present: Phillip Evans, Carmarthenshire County Council (Chairman)
Nicola Daley, Carmarthenshire County Council
Naomi Colling, Carmarthenshire County Council
Selina Duffy, Carmarthenshire County Council
Amanda Hull, Folland Ferret Welfare
Steve Hull, Folland Ferret Welfare
Siobhan Lord, Equine Market Watch
Joanne Davies, Powys County Council
Sue King, Powys County Council
Liz Davies, Great Dane Care and C.S.G.
Bridget Moseley, Coleg Sir Gar
Sue Manning, Ceredigion Animal Rescue and Education
Yvonne Hazel, Ceredigion Animal Rescue and Education
Phillip Jones, World Horse Welfare
Tony Evans, World Horse Welfare
Helen Evans, Defra – Animal Health
Will Evans, Ceredigion County Council
David Evans, Carmarthenshire County Council
Zoe Lewis, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Joel Guest, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Mike Tasker, Pembrokeshire County Council
Rachel Stevenson, Pembrokeshire County Council
Tamlin Watson, Donkey Sanctuary
Huw Jones, Welsh Assembly Government
Rebecca Williams, Welsh Assembly Government
Wendy Davies, British Horse Society
Sian Edwards, Dogs Trust

Apologies: Brian Davies – Ceredigion County Council
Barbara Price – Ceredigion County Council
Gill Waldren – Feline Advisory Bureau
Molly Lloyd – Donkey Sanctuary
Rachel Evans – Countryside Council for Wales
Adrian Cawdery – Lluest Horse and Pony Trust
Pauline Cawdery – Lluest Horse and Pony Trust

ITEM NO.	SUBJECT	ACTION
1.0	Phillip Evans welcomed everyone to the meeting of Dyfed-Powys Companion Animal Welfare Forum and gave all present a warm welcome to Ferryside.	
1.1	<p><u>Minutes of Previous Meeting</u></p> <p>1.1.1 Error on item 3.2.3 – could court procedures please be altered to read port procedures.</p> <p>1.1.2 Subject to this amendment the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>2.1 The baseline data meeting with local authorities is planned for September.</p> <p>2.2 The forum was informed that there was another lairage point for horses now operating in Holyhead.</p>	
3.0	<p><u>Update from WAG Representative</u></p> <p>3.1 An address was given by Rebecca Williams from WAG to the forum.</p> <p>3.2 Rebecca reported that there was nothing much to report back since the last meeting and that Huw Jones, Policy Team from the Welsh Assembly is attending this meeting.</p> <p>3.3 <u>Baseline information</u> Rebecca thanked all local authorities for their input. The WAG was overwhelmed with all the information and it has taken a long time for all this to be processed but this was now coming to an end. Jeanette has collated all the information and is sending this all out in the next couple of weeks. Huw's colleagues are also looking at the information. WAG hoped that the local authorities were happy that all this reflects what is going on in each authority.</p> <p>3.4 <u>Special Projects</u> Report back by end of this month and projects will be looked at during September and then feedback will be given after this. Rebecca informed everyone that really interesting findings were coming out of this project.</p> <p>3.5 <u>Education</u> Rebecca reported that CAWES were in Royal Welsh and this was very successful and that the WAG were very impressed with the amount of interest shown by the general public. A wide audience visited the stand including Social workers/scout leaders and it all</p>	

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<p>3.5.1</p> <p>3.5.2</p> <p>3.5.3</p> <p>3.5.4</p> <p>3.5.5</p> <p>3.5.6</p>	<p>proved to be a huge success.</p> <p>It was aimed to move this project forward in September with a conference planned for the Autumn.</p> <p>A question was raised by Phillip Jones, World Horse Welfare (WHW) of how the information was going to be distributed and added that it would be a good idea to pass the information to each forum. This was noted and agreed.</p> <p>Wendy Davies, British Horse Society (BHS), suggested that more interactivity should be made between each different forum. How many from this forum attends others? Perhaps there was need for a representative. It was reported that chairs of each for a meet periodically.</p> <p>Has a date for the conference been arranged? Huw Jones reported that he thought the date was 11th November.</p> <p>A question was asked by Phillip Jones (WHW) of whether the conference would be by invitation only. Huw Jones reported that yes it would be but there would be representatives from each section.</p> <p>Would the findings of the special project be published on the network?</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.1.1</p> <p>4.1.2.</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.2.1</p>	<p>A report was given by each Local Authority on the special project and Education Plan.</p> <p><u>Carmarthenshire County Council</u></p> <p>With regards to the special project CCC reported that the numbers of litters for sale had dropped. 2 prosecutions were currently ongoing and 74 visits had been undertaken since April 2009.</p> <p>An update was given by CCC on the Education Plan. A Primary School had been visited and the talk on looking after pets had been very successful. A number of local shows had been attended, and it was reported that Carmarthenshire had booked the Carmarthen Showground for an event in October for local schools, and another event in Llanelli is proposed after this. A good response had been received so far.</p> <p><u>Ceredigion County Council</u></p> <p>An update was given by Ceredigion on the special project. Ceredigion reported that 108 had complied, 24 needed a licence, 84</p>	

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4.2.2	<p>were exempt and 6 people were being investigated. Ongoing monitoring was continuing. Ceredigion also reported that 6 Welfare Improvement Notices had been issued and 1 formal caution given but all had shown a willingness to comply.</p> <p>With regards to the education plan Ceredigion confirmed that they had attended local shows and had received a good response. They were aiming to start the primary schools in autumn.</p>	
4.3	<p><u>Pembrokeshire County Council</u></p>	
4.3.1	<p>2 special projects had been undertaken. A review of licensing procedures and traffic of livestock. Both projects have been completed. A thank you was given to all those who took the time to undertake a thorough review. Pembs hope that the report will be adopted by the whole of Wales. It highlights many shortfalls and the recommendations have been noted to WAG. A question was raised by Phillip Jones (WHW) of whether the report would be made public. This was now in the hands of the WAG. Huw Jones confirmed that the report had been received by WAG and advised that WAG would like to develop a review of the breeding establishments and hope to do so and any recommendations would be noted and highlighted in the conference. WAG are looking at the Animal Welfare Act in general and are hoping to introduce new guidelines. A question was asked regarding timescales and Huw confirmed that no timescales could be given at present. Would the WAG bring in new legislation if appropriate? Huw confirmed that yes new legislation might be approved.</p>	
4.3.1	<p>All junior schools have been written to explaining the education plan, and Rachel Stevenson addressed the head teacher's meeting in May of this year. The response has been very encouraging with 46 schools so far having replied asking for a talk to be given to the schools, 3 of which have already been given prior to the summer holidays & the rest planned for September onwards – it is anticipated these will continue up until Easter 2010, depending on when the subject will best fit in with each school.</p>	
4.4	<p><u>Powys County Council</u></p>	
4.4.1	<p>Powys reported that the internet project was in its second year and gave a comprehensive report on their findings from the internet. Trading Standard issues have been raised as well via the project. Recommendations were to be made at the end of the report and a change in legislation was to be lobbied for. A certain number of scams have been identified on the web. It was requested that if anyone had any input on the project, could they please contact Jo or</p>	

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<p>4.4.2</p> <p>4.4.3</p>	<p>Sue.</p> <p>As regards the education plan Powys had attended many of the local shows and lots of teachers/social workers had expressed interest. It is Powys' intention to visit the local schools as soon as possible.</p> <p>A question was raised by Rebecca Williams, WAG, regarding whether the sales are mainly based in Wales. It was reported that the sales come from all over the world. Mobile phone usage was a particular problem as it was extremely difficult to get information on mobile phones.</p>	
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p> <p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p>	<p>Liz Davies, Great Dane Rescue and Care raised the issue of ways of highlighting to the public that it is illegal to sell pets in public places. A comprehensive debate then took place. It was agreed that the general public need to be made more aware that this practise is prohibited and also who to contact if they need to report any illegal activities. A large proportion of puppies are sold through dealers and these do not need to be registered with animal health. A central database would be helpful. In Carmarthenshire a quarterly community news brochure is distributed to all householders and perhaps an article could be placed in this brochure regarding the sale of animals in a public place and who to contact if anyone wished to report any illegal activity. Something could also be sent out to all businesses in each area e.g. supermarkets.</p> <p>It would be a good idea if all dealers were registered. WAG would have to agree this.</p> <p>Would it be a good idea to make all shows aware that it is illegal to sell animals? Helen Evans, Animal Health, raised a query of whether a condition could be incorporated in the shows licensing conditions stating that no pets are to be sold at the premise. Helen Evans, Animal Health will speak to Alan Huxtable about adding this to the licence conditions.</p> <p>Phillip Jones (WHW), asked if Dog Wardens could issue on the spot fines and remove the puppies from the dealers? The law would have to be changed for this to be done.</p> <p>It would be a good idea if all pets were microchipped.</p> <p>A discussion ensued on tail docking. New legislation is been looked at and there is a strong feeling that this practise should be made illegal.</p>	<p>SVD/ND</p> <p>HE</p>

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6.0	A question was raised by Amanda and Stephen Hull, Folland Ferrets of whether there was a method in place that Local Authorities could be approached regarding information on anyone that had been banned from keeping animals. When home checks were undertaken regarding re-homing ferrets there was no way of knowing whether those people had been banned previously. Phillip Evans informed everyone that Carmarthenshire County Council would only have details if they had actually been involved with the case. The records could be found with the Clerk of Courts but this could take a long time to get this information.	
6.1	It was reported that the information kept by the Council could not be guaranteed to be correct as the conviction could have taken place in a different Authority. Amanda and Stephen Hull agreed that any information is better than none.	
6.2	Phillip Evans informed Amanda and Stephen Hull that they could contact the Animal Health Section if they required any information within the Carmarthenshire area.	
7.0	Joel Guest and Zoe Lewis from Merthyr Tydfil Council gave a presentation on the Cat Breeding Project that they had been undertaking. The project was started 6 weeks ago and 270 different breeders had been identified so far. A quick demo was undertaken of the database. The information was not complete at present as the project is still ongoing. Information had been sent out to vets/cat protection but not a lot of information received back at present. If any Local Authorities visit any cat breeders could they please get in touch with Joel.	
8.0	<u>AOB</u>	
8.1	A question was raised regarding who dealt with the welfare of dogs – was it the RSPCA or the Local Authority. It was reported that if the complaint is concerning a pet animal at a domestic property then it should be reported to the RSPCA. If the complaint is in regard to any licensed animal establishment or any premise that are carrying out licensable activities, then it should be referred to the relevant Local Authority. Also any concerns about premises keeping farmed animals as pets would be dealt with by the LA.	
8.2	Amanda and Stephen Hull (FF) asked if there could be a better scheme whereby rescues/welfares are invited to County Shows as the cost to attend for non-profit organisations is high. Wendy Davies (BHS) replied that if the shows are approached they may offer a discount if a registered charity.	

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8.3	Wendy Davies (BHS) raised the issue that there might be a health and safety issue regarding having ferrets at a show? Amanda and Stephen Hull (FF) replied that this concern can be expressed for any animal at a show.	
9.0	The next meeting will take place in Pembrokeshire. Exact details to be confirmed nearer to the time.	