

## GWENT CAWES FORUM

### NOTES OF MEETING – 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE AT METROPOLE CULTURAL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABERTILLERY

#### Attendees

Karen Morgan	Caerphilly County Borough Council (Secretary)
Sarah Price	Torfaen & Monmouthshire County Borough Council
Alison Hughes	Torfaen County Borough Council (Chair)
Lizzie Ellis	Donkey Sanctuary
Charlotte Davies	Newport City Council
Glynis Davies	Gwent Cat Protection
PC Tracey Bowen-Quirk	Heddlu Gwent Police
Philip Jones	World Horse Welfare
Kerry Doyle	The Blue Cross
Rosie Mogford	The Blue Cross
Fiona Leadbitter	Welsh Assembly Government
Jacqui Hodges	Horse & Pony Rescue Society
Henry J. Allen	Socelex
John Colliver	Socelex
Glyn Picton	Pil Homing Society/Welsh Homing Pigeon Union
Alain Thomas	Greyhound Rescue Wales
Tracey Richardson	All Creatures Great and Small
Jacqui Morgan	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Sharon Sullivan	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Graham Smith	Veterinary Services
Wendy Davies	The British Horse Society (Wales)

#### Apologies:

Anti-Docking Alliance, Feline Advisory Bureau, Lantra, Pawsy, Councillor John Williams MBE. JP

All attendees asked to indicate on attendance sheet whether they wish their contact details to be included on a shared contact list.

#### Action

#### Welcome and Introductions

Alison Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting following which there was a round robin of introductions.

#### Notes of Previous Meeting

Agreed.

## **Matters Arising**

- ❑ The issue of communication with the RSPCA inspectors has been raised at the Cawes Chair's meeting during which there was also discussion on the need for a central collation of complaints to avoid duplication of work and possible prejudice in criminal cases.
- ❑ 2009/10 Education Plan has been circulated. Any suggestions for next year's plan are invited.
- ❑ Use of WAG images – no final decision due to copyright issues. IT compatibility could also be a problem in the event of WAG authorising use.
- ❑ WAG exhibition materials have now been supplied to LA's, pop up was on display.
- ❑ Rabbit Welfare Code is now out for consultation.
- ❑ Horse Handling Instruction – a number of LA officers are already receiving ongoing training. WHOTS Animal Health and Welfare Panel are to arrange a formal training course.
- ❑ Alison Hughes MBA Questionnaires – recommendations are to be given to AWW board. Findings are to be an item on the next meeting's agenda.
- ❑ A question was raised about the reintroduction of a dog licence or introduction of a general licence to keep animals. LA's and WAG stated that either/both extremely unlikely.

## **Local Authority Enforcement Perspective**

- ❑ KM gave a presentation on LA Inspectors' power of entry/inspection, rules of evidence gathering and LA case assessment procedures. There were differing viewpoints on the power of entry for Section 9 offences. Further clarification will be sought.
- ❑ Recognition that resources are stretched in many LA's.
- ❑ Some attendees expressed frustration with the legal process.

KM

## **Code of Conduct/Memorandum of Understanding – Terms of Reference**

- ❑ AWW to consider LA's different interpretations of Memorandum of Understanding

AWNW

## **Update From Other Meetings**

- ❑ Fiona Leadbitter and Alison Hughes attended a meeting with LACORS to provide an update on CAWES, which was received very positively.
- ❑ Regular meetings will now take place between all Forum Chairs.
- ❑ AWW are to host a calendar of meetings/events with a view to avoiding any clashes. Gwent Forum to add next 2 meeting dates to calendar.
- ❑ All Party Group for Animal Welfare to hold a meeting on Puppy Farms on 1<sup>st</sup> July. Contact Tina Reece for initiations/further information.
- ❑ WAG is planning a conference on CAWES for November 2009. The question was asked whether CAWES will continue beyond the 3 years – FL unable to give an answer, need to evidence its value and asked that all members notify WAG of any CAWES events.
- ❑ LA's and WAG asked to publicise CAWES more. Recognition that media

more likely to cover in the event of a welfare prosecution. Suggestion that each LA write an article to be included in the LA's own newspaper.

- All Wales Media campaign, preferably on T.V. may enhance public awareness of the Act.

### **Partnership Working (to include workshop)**

- Given the issues that this meeting has raised, the workshop session was altered to:
  - 1) What new legislation would you like to be introduced?
  - 2) What are the priorities?
  - 3) What are the top three priorities?

### **Group 1**

- New legislation/Priorities - sanctuaries, livery yards, horse dealers, horses at stud, greyhound racing tracks (in progress), improvement in dog breeding legislation, legislation for all animal breeders, dog muzzling, microchipping.
- Top three priorities - 1) Any person who is in trade or business dealing with any companion animal should be licensed/regulated. 2) Licensing for all dogs. 3) Raising awareness to animal owners about their legal responsibility

### **Group 2**

- New legislation/Priorities - livery yards, dealers and sanctuaries (including clear definitions), pet service businesses such as animal therapists, animal trainers, groomers and pet sitters - qualification requirement for operators of such businesses.
- Top three priorities – 1) Pet services such as hydrotherapy, alternative remedy practitioners, animal therapists. 2) Livery yards/horse dealers. 3) Wildlife sanctuaries

### **Any Other Business**

- Members sometimes experience difficulty identifying local authority boundaries; a suggestion was made to contact the police who have been very helpful with such queries.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

- To be an all day and predominantly workshop based meeting. Themes to include specific species and perceived problems, dog/animal licensing, enforcement with a view to identifying ongoing work, gaps, priorities, identifying a way forward, all of which will be fed back to WAG. Aim for a date in early September.