



ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR ANIMAL WELFARE NEWSLETTER

Chairs: Tracey Crouch MP & Lord Trees

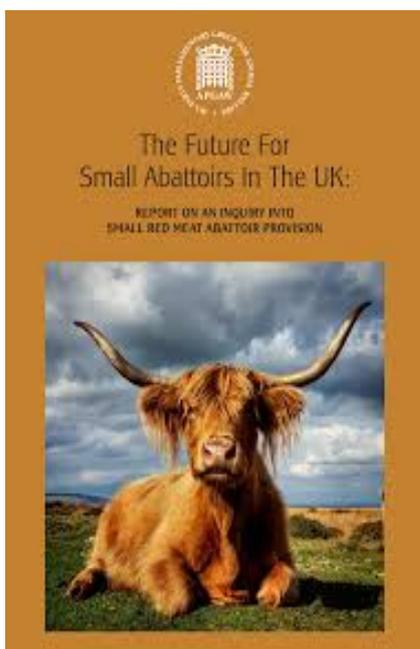
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Animal Welfare Enforcement



In November, APGAW formally started its workstream on Animal Welfare Enforcement which will move forward in 2021. Whilst we have seen some good and welcome progress in regard to legislation around animal welfare, there is concern that enforcement continues to be inconsistent and complex. The first roundtable meeting was formed of the RSPCA inspectorate, Local Government Animal Welfare Group, UK Centre for Animal Law (A-LAW) and the Police and it pulled out some key themes from how improvement notices work down to the prosecution process. APGAW will be working closely with the RSPCA and A-LAW now to take this work forward and APGAW has already written to the Minister with some suggestions of improvements particularly around S20 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006. We look forward to engaging with wider APGAW members on this topic.

Small Abattoirs & Animal Welfare



After a lengthy inquiry, APGAW published its report in June into the provision of small abattoirs across the U.K following concerns being raised about the loss of infrastructure to support small scale farming. As Government have recognised shorter journey times to local abattoirs can support higher animal welfare, the group felt it was important to understand the needs of small producers around access to abattoirs and what is needed to ensure high quality and sustainable production can flourish to achieve the high welfare farm to fork vision. The report set out a number of recommendations including the inclusion of small abattoirs within the Agricultural Bill for funding potential and the setting up of a Sector Group to enable business plans to be developed, economic modelling and sharing of best practice. During the pass of the Agriculture Bill through the House of Lords, the Minister agreed to the funding principle and APGAW has supported the setting of a Sector Group which will be formally launched in January and chaired by Simon Docherty.

Animal in Science Subgroup



APGAW has set up a sub-group on animals in science post Brexit to look at where we can improve animal welfare standards and support the work around the 3Rs in Parliament. The sub-group is led by Cruelty Free International and the RSPCA and we will be seeking broader APGAW members as we move forward over the beginning of 2021 as well as looking at the positive work of NC3Rs. We have outlined the priority areas to work on which includes ensuring transparency around testing and ensuring no duplication in animal testing as well as looking at the inspection processes.

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Animal Welfare & Trade



Livestock Worrying



Pet Welfare

Animal Welfare & Trade

In December APGAW held a meeting between Parliamentarians and the Rt Hon Greg Hans, Minister of State for Trade Policy at the Department for International Trade (DIT) to discuss how animal welfare will be protected in international trade deals and how the U.K could lift its standards going forward. The move to provide ongoing and statutory scrutiny of future trade deals via the Trade and Agriculture Commission has been widely welcomed but APGAW political members are still keen to ensure that lower welfare imports do not undermine our market and to really push the U.K to become a world leader which can be evidenced through clear welfare outcomes for all species. The Minister and APGAW members agreed to continue the open dialogue between DIT, DEFRA and Parliamentarians and we look forward to working on this important issue in 2021.

Livestock Worrying Progress

Following the publication of the APGAW report in 2018 entitled Tackling Livestock Worrying we have been speaking to Ministers and continuing to press for action to be taken to modernise the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953. APGAW with the RSPCA and the North Welsh Rural Crime Team amended the Act to reflect the modern requirements and the working group was looking to take it forward under a Private Members Bill, however DEFRA have indicated that they would like to solve the problem of livestock worrying which can cause so many welfare issues to both the animals being chased and the dogs. We are currently working with the DEFRA team and hope to find a positive solution in early 2021 to be able to close this workstream.

Pet Welfare & Other Issue

APGAW will look broadly at pet welfare over 2021. A great deal of good work has been done on canine and feline welfare over the last few years, but many welfare concerns continue to exist around other pets, particularly exotics and rabbits. APGAW will work with members to look at how pet welfare could be improved starting with rabbits in January.

APGAW will also continue to work on issues like sentience, live transport and food labelling. If you have any suggestions for priority issues to be covered please let us know

Contact Marisa Heath for more information on APGAW's work
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