

Welfare Report for Council on 19th March 2022

- The Canine & Feline Sector Group met on 3rd December under the new chair Rob Quest. The meeting included a review of progress against the group's work plan for 2021. As previously stated, the group's work in 2022 will focus heavily around the large amount of legislative work, which DEFRA have in train and have asked CFSG to advise upon (eg. compulsory microchipping of cats, review of dog microchipping regulations, puppy import ban, ear cropping, worrying of livestock, etc.)
- A five year review of licensing regulations introduced under the Animal Activity Licensing Regulations 2018 will be undertaken in detail and CFSG has a key role in this, providing advice, comment and data. DEFRA have completed a light touch review of the Licensing of Animal Activities Guidance notes and issued revised notes for each licensing activity, these come into effect on 1st February 2022. A copy of the revised guidance on "Selling Animals As Pets" is on the GCCF website.
- One of CFSG's biggest challenges remains the data collection and being able to represent a body of authority on all the key statistics relating to cats and dogs.
- A meeting of the Genetics Committee took place on 5th December, minutes of GC meetings are on GCCF website.
- The Government has set up a task force to look into pet theft (not just dogs but all pets) and as a result they have put in an amendment to the Kept Animals Bill which is due to go to the Lords creating a new offence regarding the abduction of dogs and recognising that a dog is not just a piece of property but a valued family member. They have left out cats – we were expecting the new offence to cover cats and dogs. GCCF is part of a coalition calling for cats to be included and I have responded to an email from the Companion Animal Welfare team at DEFRA giving basic information about cat theft and the risks. We hold little to no information on this at the GCCF Office and are not easily in a position to receive and record data on thefts (most owners who experience it would not normally think to notify GCCF). I am working with colleagues in Cats Protection and others to look at what action we could take, which could include GCCF putting out a call to our breeders and owners for information about cat thefts they have experienced or know about.

SC 15th February 2022