



## Meeting 17 March 2022 (Via Zoom) (10.00 – 1.00pm)

**Members present:** Carol Fowler (CF), Fiona Cooke; (FC) Dan O'Neill (DON), Emma Milne (EM); Katharine Williams (KW), Vicki Betton (VB), Tania Ledger (TL), Andrew Gillon (AG); Rowena Packer (RP), Annie Wilson (AW), Alison Skipper (AS); Clare Rusbridge (CR) Michelle Farrow (MF).

Guest Speaker Rebecca Walters (PupStartsBreeders)

Meeting chaired by Andrew Gillon

### 1. Matters arising

Item 4 from previous agenda:

Definitions: Normal Behaviour to be completed; Language used in relation to dogs, done Agreed that definitions should be circulated to whole group once agreed. The definitions should be 'user friendly' so that they are understood by the general public, and graphics utilised.

Action TL AW FC RP MF

### 2. Three Year Strategic Plan Update

The difference between sustainability and growth was discussed. A greater focus needs to be made on ensuring sustainability and growth in the future. Funding is an issue and it was suggested that we could look to fundraise on a project basis rather than simply to raise income that had no defined purpose.

Succession planning was mentioned, and it was agreed that the Trustees have a separate meeting to discuss.

Action Trustees

### 3. Areas of Focus update

Document has been updated and distributed to all.

#### 4. **DBRG Policies Document**

DBRG Social Media policy now completed and added.  
Language Used in Relation to Dogs completed  
Dogs Need to Exhibit Normal Behaviour (TBA)

#### 5. **Symposium**

Progress and ticket sales information was shared and it was agreed that it is early for tickets to be booked. All agreed to periodically share on social media and to engage the veterinary professionals in communicating information to colleagues and contacts.

Action All

#### 6. **PupStartsBreeders**

Rebecca Walters presented the format of her Level 3 Certificate in Dog Breeding. The qualification has been developed with IPetNetwork. The presentation was received well, albeit with some suggestions for improvement, for example the removal of Bulldogs and French Bulldogs used in the advertising and on the website. It was also mooted that more information could be included about genetic welfare.

It was agreed that an open dialogue with Rebecca should be continued in an endeavour to inform her of the issues which DBRG champion.

#### 7. **Breed Posters Revision Process**

The posters are in the process of being reviewed by AS. It was agreed that the content of the posters requires veterinary input to ensure accuracy. The posters are ultimately for the use of the general public so must not be too technical. The posters which are already approved should be included on the website (for example Cavalier King Charles Spaniel). Those which have not, should be removed until reviewed.

Action AS, CF, AW

#### 8. **Sector Issues**

**APGAW** The effectiveness of animal welfare enforcement has been reviewed and it is recognised that a significant burden falls on local authorities in regards to licensing in particular. The regulations are not applied in a uniform way across the UK. The aim therefore is to set out a model on how animal welfare enforcement could be better achieved through clearer guidelines and responsibility as well as collaborative working.

**CFSG** It was noted that the Animal Sentience legislation, supported by DBRG and others, would go back to the House of Lords following an amendment being passed – hopefully to swiftly return to be passed at the next stage, which would conclude its passage in the House and move to Royal Assent before being passed into law. Joint campaigning under the

#BetterDealForAnimals coalition is continuing to ensure pressure is put on MPs to support this.

**CAWG** The Welsh Government's Animal Welfare Plan is broadly welcomed however it is concerning that policies will be implemented slowly over the next five years lacking the urgency needed.

It was agreed to remain as associate members of the above groups

## **9. LA Inspectors Training Module**

Meeting scheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> April with the working group, including Sharon Edwards from City of London who has now taken the lead role in co-ordinating the role of local authority inspectors

Action VB and working group

## **10. Kennel Club**

On balance it was agreed that communication with the Kennel Club should be kept open. CF to contact Mark Beazley to follow up on actions from previous meeting. However, while it was noted that the response from the Kennel Club has at best been disappointing over the years, it was agreed that the specific actions could drive positive changes for dogs if followed through, so we should continue to do so. Specific areas are: aligning the KC Assured Breeders Scheme Code of Practice with the DBRG/CFSG Code of Practice for Dog Breeding; aligning the ABS Puppy Contract PIP with AWF Puppy Contract PIP; accepting the principle and practice that only dogs which are healthy should be awarded Championship status (details and definition needed)

Action CF

## **11. Interpretation of 'reasonably expected'**

It was agreed that this issue should be discussed via email between members and trustees

Action All

## **12 Defining Terms**

It was generally agreed that DBRG should be promoting outcrossing to achieve breeds with fewer health issues, however this requires more discussion and should be put at the top of the agenda for next meeting, together with email discussion between members and trustees.

**AOB** None

Date of Next Meeting            23 June 2pm

Trustee Meeting                 12 May 11am

