

ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITTEE (AWC)

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING: Nobel House London, Tuesday 11 February 2020

Present: [REDACTED]

Item 1. [REDACTED]

Item 2. [REDACTED]

Item 3. [REDACTED]

Item 4. [REDACTED]

Item 5. [REDACTED]

Item 6. Forward look: future animal welfare priorities

29. Lord Goldsmith, Animal Welfare Minister, joined members for this part of the meeting.
30. Welfare codes – Defra, Scottish and Welsh Governments to consider co-ordination of codes updates to reduce duplication of effort and encourage consistency. AWC role could be clarified in the cover note for the code.
31. Companion animal issues [REDACTED] – imports of pets and horses; shelters, boarding facilities; chipping, dangerous dogs.
32. Review of previous recommendations – [REDACTED] suggested a review of previous AWC recommendations, especially time limited ones, calls for bans and research gaps. [REDACTED] **and** [REDACTED] **offered to begin**. [REDACTED] noted that AWC recommendations were used in policy considerations even if there was not a formal response to all reports.
33. Lord Goldsmith noted that government in England had an ambitious manifesto on animal welfare and wished to make progress. There would be no compromise on welfare post Brexit.
34. Members were invited to give their 2-3 top animal welfare issues.
35. [REDACTED]; 1. A focus on the welfare provenance of imports from the US, Brazil and Australia, 2. Trade and welfare standards, 3. Stricter legislation on import of exotic animals e.g. cheetahs and snakes.
36. [REDACTED]; 1. A focus on mental health within the farming world, 2. Lameness in cattle, 3. Closure of small abattoirs causing issues for local farmers.
37. [REDACTED]; 1. A focus on defining animal welfare in terms of outcomes, 2. Reducing time of inversion and suspension for killing of chickens.
38. [REDACTED]; 1. Consequences of policy decisions – using livestock as a tool & links to stockman's welfare, 2. Imports – training for new animal owners to prevent animal welfare being impacted, 3. Infectious diseases.
39. [REDACTED]; 1. Sustainable welfare; linking the environment with animals including stockman to animal ratio, 2. Genetics separation – companies own the genetics to the point

that you can't breed them without permission, 3. Advance in current methods used – forward thinking, metrics of what is sustainable.

40. [REDACTED]; 1. Outcome measurements of animal welfare, 2. Metrics of what is good animal welfare outcomes need validation.
41. [REDACTED]; 1. How do you measure welfare and research into it?, 2. The Pig Welfare Code re space requirements – Pigs have got bigger and the legislation needs updating to reflect this, 3. Processes and retailers are leading – research needs to be done to show alternative methods.
42. [REDACTED]; 1. To find a humane way of killing poultry for religious slaughter rather than non-stun slaughter, 2. Slower growing genetics for chickens – fast growth is causing issues; the genetics are out there to grow birds more slowly this will result in a positive move and improvements to the animals.
43. [REDACTED]; 1. Chlorinated chicken meat – allowing poultry to be produced in a low welfare system to be sold in a way that is safe for consumption, 2. Mutilation issues – currently under pressure to ban. Under pressure when reviewing legislation to be evidence based however farm and retailer schemes are using marketing differentiation, 3. Science led work showed environments with higher light levels encourages more activity levels – introducing more windows into chicken buildings has caused issues with thermal insulation and variability in light.
44. [REDACTED]; 1. Most welfare issues in farm animals are process and people driven; not system driven. Systems have been banned and welfare has been lowered, 2. Pressure to reduce anti-biotics, marketing pressures influencing meat without anti-biotics which causes huge welfare implications by depriving animals of the right to be treated, 3. African swine fever – going to be a big problem if it arrives in the UK.
45. [REDACTED]; 1. Need an objective measure of welfare, environment and behaviour. The information needs to go to the consumer; we need buyer information such as packaging labelling, 2. Public education – cheap food in supermarkets, different social groups with more education and topics such as ethics into the school curriculum, 3. Wild animals that are kept; we are responsible for the environment that all wild animals live in, 3. Companion animals – over treatment of animals that impacts different social groups.
46. [REDACTED]; 1. Supply chain management; breeding dogs and movement within the UK and internationally. 2. Consumer point of sale; people who want to buy happy sustainable pets but they don't know how to do it. 3. Obesity in pets; social isolation with horses and rabbits.
47. [REDACTED]; 1. Good legislation for zoos, enforcement of reptiles; need consistency across where animals are kept. Primates as pets; more issues with other animals such as parrots. 2. Animal imports; geckos are coming into market. 3. Aspirations – all animals in the UK need to have a duty of care e.g. snaring animals is inhumane.
48. [REDACTED]; 1. Pest control; species we define as pests have been lifted to industry of controlling new pests with traps = huge regulation costs. 2. Effects of production and lameness in cattle. 3. High frequency electrical halal stunning; immobilising the animals; should be phased out.
49. [REDACTED]; 1. Mutilation; high tolerance of this in the industry. Tail docking methods can be painful at the time and are too often used as a reason to not address underlining issues.

2. Labelling and packaging issues; logos; codes of different kinds – hard to get all of the information required.

50. [REDACTED]; 1. Welfare and trade standards; cattle sector; early slaughter of calves – welfare and sustainability of our farming systems. Review procedures covered under the mutilation act at the moment; especially pain relief. 2. How we can minimise the impact of welfare problems. 3. Lameness is still the biggest welfare issue with cattle; we feel we have failed within the industry.

51. Lord Goldsmith; we will take this away and discuss with Marc Casale. Would like a system to deal with welfare issues, evidence gaps etc. Small abattoirs could benefit from grant schemes. Hope an Animal Welfare Bill will come forward as there are too many things to deal with individually.

Item 7. [REDACTED]

Item 8. [REDACTED]

Item 9. [REDACTED]

ACTION NOTE

[REDACTED]