

## **Advisory Council on Companion Animal Welfare**

**Date:** 12th June 2025

**Venue:** Backweston campus

**Meeting Time:** 14:00 – 16:00

### **Attendees:**

Seán O'Laoide (Chair), Catherine Lawler (DAFM), Chris Conneely (Irish Blue Cross), Clare Owens (DSPCA), Paul Lawless (IKC), Jim Stephens (IKC), Conor Dowling (DSPCA), Alan Walsh (DAFM).

Online: Sarah Lynch (Dogs Trust), Claire Meade (The Cat Hospital), Sandra Nicholson (UCD).

Apologies: Mary McCarthy (DAFM), Rory Breathneach (UCD), Alan Rossiter (Vet Ireland), Maureen Byrne (APDT), Siobhan Mullan (UCD), Mairead Cooney (DAFM).

### **1. Minutes and Action points from previous meeting**

Dogs Trust and UCD proposed, and Chair accepted, amendments to the minutes of the previous ACCAW meeting, with the remainder of the minutes and previous action points accepted.

Chair noted RVN representative will be joining ACCAW and is due to attend the next ACCAW meeting.

### **2. Update from working groups**

#### **Cat Welfare sub-group**

- Update on plan to publish responsible cat ownership leaflet.
- Update on cat welfare innate health poster.
- Discussed progress on farm cat population leaflet.

#### **Exotic sub-group**

- Working on potential legislation recommendations and educational material.

#### **Brachycephalic sub-group**

- Working on broadening scope of group to also incorporate work on innate health.

#### **Education sub-group**

- Working on progressing online material targeting schools.
- Developing comms plan.

### **3. EuroFAWC Update**

Chair attended the 2 day EuroFAWC meeting and updated group on initiatives from EuroFAWC members.

### **4. DAFM Update**

DAFM updated group on:

- Online advertising of pets.
- Ear cropping import licensing.
- Update on DRCD Dog Control Stakeholder Group.
- Tail Docking legislation in relation to showing of dogs.
- Microchipping of dogs legislation.
- Developments in EU regulations.
- News media updates.

### **5. Website review**

Group noted the recent launch of the ACCAW website.

### **6. AOB**

- DSPCA noted engagement with new policing and community safety authority, PDSCSA.

**Next Meeting:** 17/09/2025 2-5pm