

Cross-Party Group Annual Report

Cross Party Group Details

Cross Party Group Title:

Animal Welfare

Group membership and office holders

Name of Group Chair:

Carolyn Thomas MS

Names of other Members of the Senedd:

Mike Hedges MS

Buffy Williams MS

Jane Dodds MS

John Griffiths MS

Luke Fletcher MS

David Rees MS

Name of Secretary and Organisation:

Jamie Adair, Public Affairs Officer (Wales), League Against Cruel Sports

Names of other external members and organisations represented:

Jamie Adair (Secretariat)	League Against Cruel Sports
Anne-Louise Davies	Welsh Local Government Association
Chris Ward	Cats Protection
Dan Rose	Staff of Carolyn Thomas MS
Deborah Davies	Independent
Dewi John	Dogs Trust
James Fitch	Dogs Trust

Fiona Pereira	Animal Aid
Gareth Walters	Welsh Local Government Association
Holly Conway	Kennel Club
Iain Green	Animal Aid
Chris Topping	Justice for Reggie
Michelle Masterton-Smith	Animal Aid
Nicky Hughes	Greyhound Rescue Wales
Nigel Palmer	Badger Trust
Russell Whiting	Crustacean Compassion
Vanessa Waddon	Hope Rescue
Natalie Harvey	Naturewatch Foundation
Malcolm Eames	Greyhound Rescue Wales
Rachel Sharp	Wildlife Trusts Wales
Scott Fryer	Wildlife Trust Wales
Ruth Tingay	Wild Justice
Teresa Amory	Gower Bird Hospital

Other meetings of the Group since the last AGM

Meeting 1

Date of Meeting:

Monday 14 July

Attendees:

Carolyn Thomas MS (Chair)	Member of the Senedd
Buffy Williams MS	Member of the Senedd
Mike Hedges MS	Member of the Senedd
Jamie Adair (Secretariat)	League Against Cruel Sports
Anne-Louise Davies	Welsh Local Government Association
Arnja Dale	SPCA New Zealand
Chris Ward	Cats Protection
Dan Rose	Staff of Carolyn Thomas MS
Deborah Davies	Independent
Dewi John	Dogs Trust
Ed Hayes	Kennel Club
Fiona Pereira	Animal Aid
Gareth Walters	Welsh Local Government Association
Holly Conway	Kennel Club
Iain Green	Animal Aid
Kirsty Rees	Senedd Support Staff Member
Liam McGuinness	Senedd Support Staff
Lynne Oldham (on behalf of Chris Topping)	Justice for Reggie
Michelle Masterton-Smith	Animal Aid
Nicky Hughes	Greyhound Rescue Wales
Nigel Palmer	Badger Trust

Alison Vaughan	SPCA New Zealand
Russell Whiting	Crustacean Compassion
Tomos Roberts-Young	Senedd Support Staff Member
Vanessa Waddon	Hope Rescue

Summary of the issues discussed:

Welcome and Introductions – Carolyn Thomas MS welcomed the group back after a long break and celebrated the Welsh Government’s announcement to end greyhound racing in Wales. She also welcomed guest speakers from SPCA New Zealand. Apologies were noted from Natalie Harvey and Malcolm Eames.

Appointment of Officers – Jamie Adair appointed as Secretariat; Carolyn Thomas confirmed as Chair, nominated by Mike Hedges MS and seconded by Buffy Williams MS.

End of Greyhound Racing in Wales – SPCA New Zealand shared lessons from their own ban, highlighting the need for emergency legislation, breeding restrictions, traceability audits, and managing industry resistance. Concerns in Wales about lack of trainer wind-down and rehoming access for non-GBGB-approved organisations.

Wales Greyhound Ban Implementation Group Update – Vanessa Waddon updated the group noting that legislation is progressing on schedule, with the priority on passing the bill. Concerns raised over the Greyhound Partnership’s rehoming numbers and clarity needed on racing outside Wales and interim welfare.

Animal Aid Investigation into Game Bird Farming – Reported serious welfare and biosecurity breaches, including use of raised cages, overcrowding, injuries, and disease risks. No official inspections in 2023–24. Calls made for a ban on raised cages, a review of release practices during avian flu outbreaks, and better regulation.

RSPCA Cymru Update:

- Support for licensing sanctuaries, rescues, and rehoming centres.
- Advocacy for a pet abduction offence in Wales.
- UK legislation updates:
 - *Imports of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets Bill* – tackling pet smuggling, mutilations, and import age limits.
 - *Protection of Livestock (Amendment) Bill* – modernising livestock worrying laws while considering dog welfare.

Other Business – Proposal to discuss animal experimentation funding at a future meeting; Animal Aid offered to contribute at next meeting.

Meeting 2

Date of Meeting:

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Attendees:

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Summary of the issues discussed:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Meeting 3

Date of Meeting:

Click or tap here to enter text.

Attendees:

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Summary of the issues discussed:

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Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities the Group have met during the previous year.

[names of lobbyists/organisations/charities should be included as follows, e.g.]

Name of Organisation:

Dr Arnja Dale, Chief Scientific Officer, SPCA New Zealand

Dr Alison Vaughan, Scientific Officer, SPCA New Zealand

Name of Group:

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Name of Organisation:

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Name of Group:

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Annual Financial Statement

Cross Party Group Title:

Animal Welfare

Date:

15/08/25

Name of Chair:

Carolyn Thomas MS

Name of Secretary and Organisation:f

Jamie Adair, Public Affairs Officer (Wales), League Against Cruel Sports

Title	Description	Amount
Group's Expenses	N/A	N/A
Costs of all goods	N/A	N/A
Benefits received by the group or individuals members from external bodies	N/A	N/A
Any financial support or other support.	N/A	N/A
Total		£00,00.00

Services provided to the Group, such as hospitality.

All hospitality paid for [include the name of the group/organisation].

Date	Name and description of provider	Costs
Click or tap here to enter text.	N/A	N/A
Click or tap here to enter text.	N/A	N/A

Total	£00,00.00
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