

Towards an Independent Advisory Body on Tackling Genetic Welfare Problems in Companion Animals

CAWC

Full report currently unavailable

This report acknowledged the increased level of interest in tackling genetic welfare problems particularly relating to dogs, referring to the All Party Group on Animal Welfare (APGAW), the Dogs Trust / Kennel Club independent review under Sir Patrick Bateson, and the recently published RSPCA report (Rooney and Sargan, 2009).

It was agreed that the advisory body should be independent and would need to be constituted so as to cover a spectrum of relevant sectors and interests. It would set its own priorities in the light of information about welfare problems.

The scope and terms of reference of an advisory body would include all companion animals; consider the best ways forward for tackling genetic welfare problems on a breed by breed (or strain) basis; advise and promote the development of breeding strategies; make recommendations about research priorities; and communicate its findings effectively.

A start will be made by engaging CAWC as the parent body for the advisory group and appointing a steering group to begin work and to look at funding.

This report has been submitted to the APGAW and Bateson inquiries whose findings will in turn inform the new advisory group.