

APGAW WORKING GROUP SET UP TO LOOK AT HUNTING DOGS

The Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW*) has set up a Working Group to investigate the future welfare implications for dogs used for hunting if hunting is banned.

The Working Group will only be considering the future welfare of dogs used for hunting in the event of a ban and not the extremely complex issues surrounding hunting itself. This clearly has the potential to have a significant effect on the welfare of many thousands of dogs and APGAW is keen to be as prepared as possible.

The members of the Working Group are Chris Laurence from Dogs Trust (the new name for the NCDL), Dominic Rudd from the RSPCA, Phil Buckley and Caroline Kisko from the Kennel Club and Rachel Casey, a veterinary behaviourist from Bristol University. The group is chaired by the APGAW Chairman, Ian Cawsey MP.

Ian said:

“I’m delighted that the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare has decided to respond positively to the issues raised with us by the Kennel Club and others. Its extremely important that we have informed and considered recommendations in place to ensure the future welfare of hunting dogs in the event that parliament does ban hunting. I’m really pleased that this working group is supported by all the APGAW officers, who are not only cross-party but also have differing views on the practice of hunting with dogs. It is the view of the Group that this is an animal welfare issue and not a political matter. I hope that anyone with an interest in this issue will get in contact with the Working Group so that we can hear from as wide a cross-section of society as possible.”

Written submissions should be sent to: Hounds Working Group, APGAW, C/o Ian Cawsey, MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. For further information please contact: Cassie Hague, AGPAW Admin Secretary at APGAW1@hotmail.com

*Note for editors:

APGAW is a long-standing cross-party Parliamentary Group made up of more than 100 MPs, Lords and associate animal welfare organisations. It aims to promote and further the cause of animal welfare by all means available to the Parliaments at Westminster and in Europe.