



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

3rd Working Group Meeting on the Welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding



12th July 2023

10:00-14:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 31st July 2023

Location: Web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Julian Drew

Björn Forkman

Mette Herskin

Ann Van Soom

- Hearing Experts:

Theodora Van Niekerk

- European Commission

Mitja Sedlbauer (DG Sante)

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Denise Candiani, Yves Van der Stede and Gizella Aboagye.

- Others:

Martina Zappaterra and Martina Felici attending the discussion via the specific agreement no 3-2023 under framework partnership agreement No GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2021/10 LOT 1

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members



MEETING MINUTES – 12th July 2023

3rd Working Group meeting on the welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. **Agreement of the minutes of the 2nd Working Group meeting held on 4th and 6th July 2023, via web-conference.**

The minutes of the 2nd Working Group (WG) meeting were agreed by written procedure on 11th July 2023.

V. **Scientific topic(s) for discussion**

Scientific report on the welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding (EFSA-Q-2023-00340)

The WG discussed and addressed several comments in the whole text of the draft Scientific report, *ad-hoc* inputs from WG experts were required to ensure consistency and coherence of the text.

The WG reviewed and finalized the tables reporting the judgement of the statements listed in the mandate, and the draft Scientific report was integrated to reply to all mandate Terms of Reference on housing, health and painful procedures, respectively (Tollgate2).

VI. **Any Other Business**

Project Management, task and assignments

Tasks were assigned and agreed as well as timelines before submission of the Scientific report for approval by end of July 2023.

VII. **Next meeting**

Not foreseen.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

2nd Working Group Meeting on the Welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding



4th and 6th July 2023

9:30-17:30, 9:30-13:30.

MINUTES - Agreed on 11th July 2023

Location: Web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Julian Drew

Björn Forkman

Mette Herskin

Ann Van Soom

- Hearing Experts:

Theodora Van Niekerk

- European Commission

Mitja Sedlbauer (DG Sante)

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Chiara Fabris, Denise Candiani, Yves Van der Stede and Gizella Aboagye.

- Others:

Barbara Padalino, Martina Zappaterra, Martina Felici and Naod Thomas Masebo attending the discussion via the specific agreement no 3-2023 under framework partnership agreement No GP/EFSA/ALPHA/2021/10 LOT 1

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.



III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Agreement of the minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting held on 28th of June 2023, via web-conference

The minutes of the 1st Working Group meeting were agreed by written procedure on 3rd July 2023.

V. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Scientific report on the welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding (EFSA-Q-2023-00340)

The WG discussed the topic on housing in relation to space, exercise, thermal comfort zone and light. It was agreed to answer the mandate statements on temperature in adult breeding cats and kittening areas, focusing on the thermoneutral zone.

For the ToR-2, The WG discussed reproduction in bitches and queens in relation to the minimum breeding age, skeletal and sexual maturity, and the frequency of pregnancy.

For the assessment on the painful procedures in dogs and cats (ToR-3), experts considered tail docking, ear cropping and debarking for dogs, and declawing in the case of cats.

VI. Any Other Business

○ Project Management, task and assignments

Specific tasks and relevant timelines were agreed and assigned.

VII. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on the 12th July 2023, via web conference.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf



SCIENTIFIC PANEL ON ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

1st Working Group Meeting on the Welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding



28th June 2023

13:00-17:00

MINUTES - Agreed on 3rd July 2023

Location: Web conference

Attendees:

- Working Group Members:

Björn Forkman

Mette Herskin

Ann Van Soom

- Hearing Experts:

Theodora Van Niekerk

- EFSA:

BIOHAW Unit: Denise Candiani, Chiara Fabris, Yves Van der Stede, Gizella Aboagye, Maria Mountricha and Ashe Sean.

- Others:

Not Applicable

I. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

II. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

III. Declarations of Interest of Working Groups members



MEETING MINUTES –28th June 2023

1st Working Group meeting on the welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director on Competing Interest Management², EFSA screened the Annual Declarations of Interest filled out by the Working Group members invited to the present meeting. No Conflicts of Interest related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process, and no interests were declared orally by the members at the beginning of this meeting.

IV. Scientific topic(s) for discussion

Scientific report on the welfare of cats and dogs kept for commercial breeding ([EFSA-Q-2023-00340](#))

The meeting began with the discussion on the background and terms of references (TORs) of the mandate.

The protocol developed for addressing the mandate TORs was discussed and approved by the Working group (WG) experts.

The WG also elaborated on the mandate questions relevant to the topic 'health' and its sub questions (space, exercise, and light) of ToR1 and provided *ad hoc* inputs based on the agreed approach.

V. Any Other Business

○ **Project Management, task and assignments**

Specific tasks and relevant timelines were agreed and assigned.

VI. Next meeting

The next WG meeting will be held on 4th and 6th July 2023, via web conference.

¹ http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/policy_independence.pdf

² http://www.efsa.europa.eu/sites/default/files/corporate_publications/files/competing_interest_management_17.pdf