



MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE VISITING SCHEME
HELD BOTH IN PERSON AND REMOTELY ON TEAMS
7th OCTOBER 2024 at 6:00 PM

PRESENT: Stephen Lewis – Chair, Animal Welfare Visitor – (SL)

Andrew Watkins – Animal Welfare Visitor (AW)
 Kirsty Buckland – Animal Welfare Visitor (KB)

Leighton Healan – Inspector - Roads Policing Specialist, Operations (LH)
 David Davies - Sergeant - Roads Policing Specialist, Operations (DD)

Louise Crawford – Dogs Trust
 Nicola Warren - Scheme Administrator, OPCC (NW)
 Ceri Hiscox – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC (CH)

The meeting commenced at 6:09 p.m.

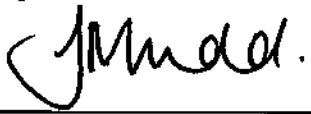
	Notes and Actions	Action
1.	Apologies	
	Apologies for absence were received from Helen Lawless, Inspector Emma Smith RSPCA, Linda Mason, Victoria Waite and Sarah Fowler.	
2.	Minutes and Actions from Previous Meetings	
	The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record. Action 2 DD informed the meeting there was a 12-week training course currently running until December, visitors to contact DD should they wish to attend and observe.	All visitors
3.	Scheme Update	
	NW advised the meeting there were nine members on the scheme including the RSPCA representative and Dogs Trust representative.	

<p>NW informed the members of the visit forms received to date. There were seven dogs out of twenty who had not received a visit within a year. Additionally, three new dogs had joined the section who were in the training stages. CH to circulate an updated list of dogs to be visited to all visitors.</p>	<p>CH</p>
<p>Members were asked if they would be interested in conducting a further visit to Waterton Kennels in addition to the usual rota, if so, to please contact the Scheme Manager.</p>	<p>All visitors</p>
<p>NW advised the meeting that the Dogs Trust had conducted a visit at Waterton kennels and several issues had been identified. The Scheme Manager at South Wales Police was to receive an update on the issues at their next Animal Welfare meeting and the minutes would be shared with NW.</p>	
<p>LC informed the meeting of the areas for concern including underfloor heating needing to be installed within the kenneling areas, more efficient food storage, as food was currently stored in a container which had no ventilation, and the food would spoil in hot weather conditions. The internal compound was on concrete which was not acceptable and overall, the kennels needed updating.</p>	
<p>LC confirmed that Waterton kennels were not in the best condition, but they had not been condemned and were still suitable to utilise.</p>	
<p>NW asked the visitors to contact DD when they had confirmed a visit date between themselves as this would make the process more streamlined. NW requested that the OPCC be copied into the final confirmation date once visiting arrangements had been confirmed.</p>	<p>All visitors</p>
<p>DD advised the panel that Cwmbran Police station and Police Headquarters would be the most suitable venues for conducting a visit in the dark evenings due to the lighting availability.</p>	
<p>NW reiterated to the visitors that if they were aware they would be unable to make a visit that they were scheduled for, they needed to liaise with other visitors as soon as possible to attempt to arrange cover. If unsuccessful, then the OPCC must be notified as soon as possible to allow adequate time to assist in trying to organise cover.</p>	
<p>DD informed the meeting that sourcing replacement mats for the dog cages within the vehicles was still ongoing.</p>	

4.	Operational Update from the Dog Section	
	<p>DD informed the meeting that a new handlers recruitment training course was currently taking place. Visitors were welcome to observe, with up to three visitors observing each day. Visitors to advise DD should they be available to attend.</p> <p>DD confirmed further training days were scheduled for the coming months, DD to confirm dates to CH. CH to circulate the dates to the visitors.</p> <p>DD informed the meeting that the formal policy from the Dogs Trust for rehoming retired Police Dogs (PD) had been implemented which included various checks being carried out and signed off before rehoming would be agreed.</p> <p>DD informed the meeting of several positive operational results by the dogs which included PD Neo catching and detaining an offender suspected of domestic violence using track and trace. PD Akela catching and detaining two offenders after they decamped from a vehicle and a bag containing drugs was found in a tree. PD Hades located a stolen handbag using track and trace which was later returned to the owner.</p> <p>DD informed the members that several PDs had retired, and three new PDs were in training.</p> <p>PD Chuckie, PD Freddie and PD Charlie had retired to their handlers. PD Simba had retired and had been rehomed.</p> <p>DD advised the meeting a further training course was scheduled for January, dates to be confirmed. DD to advise NW of dates.</p> <p>DD asked LC to keep Gwent Police in mind should any new dogs become available.</p> <p>NW asked if there was an update in relation to kennel inspections at dog handlers' homes as they were due to be undertaken. DD informed the meeting that inspections of all sixteen handlers' homes were being carried out.</p>	<p>All visitors</p> <p>DD/CH</p> <p>DD</p> <p>LC</p>
5.	AOB	
	<p>SL asked DD if it would be possible to have two handlers per visit instead of one to ensure a visit could take place in case one was called away for operational duties. DD confirmed providing resilience was a possibility, but it could be problematic at times with operational cover and annual leave.</p>	
	Date of Next Meeting	
	The next meeting will be held at 6pm, on 13 th January 2025.	

Meeting concluded at 6:45pm

Meeting concluded at 6:53pm

Jane Mudd, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent	
I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.	
Any such interests are recorded below. The above decision log has my approval.	
Signed 	Date 4/12/2024
Contact Officer	
Name	Nicola Warren
Position	Governance officer
Telephone	01633 642200
Email	Nicola.Warren@gwent.police.uk
Background papers	