**Decision log: PCCG-2023-008**



**MINUTES OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE VISITING SCHEME**

**HELD BOTH REMOTELY ON TEAMS AND IN PERSON IN YEW MEETING ROOM, POLICE HEADQUARTERS ON 26th JUNE 2023 at 4:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Nicola Warren – Interim Chair, Scheme Administrator, OPCC (NW)

Steve Lewis - Animal Welfare Visitor – (SL)

Andrew Watkins – Animal Welfare Visitor (AW)

Helen Lawless – Animal Welfare Visitor (HL)

David Davies - Sergeant - Roads Policing Specialist, Operations (DD)

Louise Crawford – Dogs Trust

Emma Smith – Inspector - RSPCA

Ceri Davis – Assistant Scheme Administrator, OPCC (CD)

**The meeting commenced at 4:05 p.m.**

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|  | **Notes and Actions** | **Action** |
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| **1.** | **Apologies** |  |
|  | Apologies for absence were received from Victoria Waite, Chloe Bradley-Thomas, Caroline Herbert, Linda Mason, Kirsty Buckland, Sarah Fowler and Inspector Shane Underwood. |  |
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| **2.** | **Minutes and Actions from Previous Meetings** |  |
|  | The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.  **Action 4**  DD advised the visitors that the handlers were responsible for their own equipment and the equipment was possibly dirty following an operational call out. If any equipment was not fit for purpose or had a safety issue it would be replaced. DD confirmed the handlers had been reminded of this. |  |
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| **4.** | **Scheme Update** |  |
|  | NW informed the visitors that there were eleven members on the scheme including the RSPCA representative and the Dogs Trust representative.  NW advised there was no visit carried out in April due to unavailability of dog handlers and visitors. A visit had taken place in May and a visit was being arranged for June.  NW confirmed there had been no issues raised with arranging visits and thanked DD for his support and assistance. All dogs had now been visited within a 12-month period and visits were now being conducted based on the longest date since the dogs last received a visit.  DD advised there would be opportunities for the visitors to observe the dogs at the Gwent Police mini open day in August, but the dog section would not be at the open day in Caerphilly in July due to operational requirements.  NW advised visitors if they were interested in attending any open days to contact DD via email to facilitate their attendance.  NW asked the visitors if they had experienced any issues with other visitors not responding when trying to arrange a visit. SL informed us he had not had a response from his accompanying visitor and was trying to arrange a visit. NW to make contact.    NW informed the visitors as per the Animal Welfare handbook visitors were expected to attend at least one panel meeting per year and carry out three scheduled visits.  NW informed us that AW had attended the Dogs Trust Conference in Glasgow and invited AW to comment. AW informed us the conference was very informative and interesting. A presentation was given on dog behavior which was aimed towards dog walkers and dog sitters, but elements could be used to review a dog’s behaviour when conducting a visit. | **All Visitors**  **NW** |
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| **5.** | **Operational Update from the Dog Section** |  |
|  | DD advised the visitors that two of the new dogs in training had been deemed unsuitable and returned to the breeders and two new dogs had been sought and had started training. One dog would be licensed this week.  DD informed the visitors that PC Porter would no longer be attending the trainer instructor course due to applying for the promotion board. PC James would be attending instead.  DD informed us that two officers would be attending a Dog Liaison Officer course in September and another officer would be attending an explosives course in South Wales; South Wales Police would be supplying the Police Dog (PD) for the officer.  DD informed the meeting of a number of positive operational results by the PDs which included PD Kona’s successful track and trace following a burglary.  PD Misty was successful in catching and detaining a wanted offender using track and trace. PD Vesper also conducted a successful track and trace on a vulnerable missing young female.  NW asked if the team were still working well since the Roads Policing Specialist Operations (RSPO) team merged with the Dog Section. DD explained the new model was working well. The daily work demand was received from the Local Policing Areas (LPAs) and the Dog section worked closely with RSPO to assist with criminals decamping from vehicles.  ES asked where the new PDs were homed whilst being trained. DD advised the PDs were housed with their handlers following an assessment from the instructor.  HL asked if there was a limit of time that a PD could track for. DD informed the visitors there was no set timeframe, but it would depend on the environment and the weather.  NW asked if kennel visits were being conducted. DD informed visitors that following recommendations from the Dog’s Trust, home kennel checks would be carried out every two years.  SL asked if the new police vehicles had been received yet. DD advised the visitors the new vehicles had not arrived yet, but they would consist of a resilience van with cages in the back and three cars. The cars would replace exiting vehicles, but the van was an additional vehicle.  Visitors queried how many cages the vehicles would contain. DD informed the visitors a decision had not been made on how many cages the van would have, possibly three or four. With several recent dangerous dog incidents consideration was being given to having a removal cage installed to allow seized dogs to be transported  DD informed the panel that retired PD Ozman was still with his old handler and looking for a retirement home. DD asked should anyone known to the visitors be interested in rehoming an ex-police dog, to make contact. |  |
| **6.** | **AOB** |  |
|  | No other business was discussed. |  |
| **7.** | **Date of Next Meeting** |  |
|  | The next meeting will be held at **4pm, on 2nd October 2023.** |  |

**Meeting concluded at 4:30pm**

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| Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MDIPD, 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 request has my approval. |
| Signed |
| Date  10/07/2023 |

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| Contact Officer |  |
| Name | Nicola Warren |
| Position | Governance Officer |
| Telephone |  |
| Email | Nicola.warren@gwent.police.uk |
| Background papers |  |

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| **Actions from Meeting dated 26th June 2023** | |  |  |  |
| **Minute Number** | **Action** | **Owner** | **Update** |  |
| **4.** | NW advised visitors if they were interested in attending any open days to contact DD via email to facilitate their attendance. | **All visitors** |  |  |
| **4.** | NW asked the visitors if they had experienced any issues with other visitors not responding when trying to arrange a visit. SL informed us he had not had a response from his accompanying visitor and was trying to arrange a visit. NW to make contact. | **NW** |  |  |
|  | **Actions from Meeting dated 17th April 2023** |  |  |  |
| **2.** | DD advised that the vet check form may incur charges from the veterinary practice, but this was being explored. | **DD** | Still ongoing. Will progress before next meeting. | **Ongoing** |