**Summary Report of Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) plenary meeting**

**Virtual, 20 April 2021**

**Items discussed**

* Defra, Welsh, Northern Ireland and Scottish Governments gave summaries of animal welfare activity.
* There was a discussion about ongoing AWC projects such as the Second Opinion on animal welfare issues related to COVID-19, Cattle Production Systems, Defra’s consultation on the regulation of genetic technologies and an update on EuroFAWC.
* Jane Downes; the chair of the Welfare at Killing (WAK) sub-committee provided an update from the recent WAK meeting held in February. Topics included input to the Demonstration of Life Protocol, Piglet Culling and an update on previous Fish welfare at slaughter advice from 1996 and 2014.
* The Defra animal sentience policy team gave an update.
* The AWC workplan for 2021 and project timetable was discussed. This included proposed work on International Rehoming of Dogs, Primates as Pets and the Gene editing consultation.

Further information

AWC Secretariat

Email: awcsecretariat@defra.gov.uk

Website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/animal-welfare-committee-awc>