

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 18th July 2023, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 16 x members, 3 x observers	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Under review.	Ongoing
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (20 th June 2023)	
3.1	3.1 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing	Ongoing.
3.2	3.2 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Ongoing.
3.3	3.3 University of Bristol 3Rs award.	Ongoing.
3.4	3.4 AWERB to discuss how to engage with the student union about animal research.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.5 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Ongoing.
3.6	3.6 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing.
3.7	3.7 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Ongoing.
3.8	3.8 Standardised wording for grant applications and publications	Ongoing.
3.9	3.9 Zebrafish GAA Passport	Ongoing.
3.10	3.10 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas	Ongoing.
3.11	3.11 Facilitation of working group of decapod researchers	Ongoing

3.12	3.12 Terms of Reference for Animal Issues Team	Complete.
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Congratulations to new appointment of academic lead for ASU.	
4.2	Discussion regarding restructuring of NC3Rs Regional Programme Managers and timescales for communications.	
4.3	Dedicated meeting planned to discuss recent ASC Report.	
4.4	News of recent protest actions by group concerned with the rights of animals.	
5	Named Training and Competency Officer (NTCO) Report	
5.1	Discussion of recent training and competency review report.	
5.2	6 x PIL training courses planned across the next academic year	
5.3	Training sessions held for handling instructors involved in the PIL Training Course and animal unit inductions	
5.4	Reaccreditation paperwork for PIL training course submitted	
5.6	ASRU policy unit have released new training and CPD document, currently under Parliamentary review	
6	Named Information Officer (NIO) Report	
6.1	Annual ASPA-regulated animal use numbers published in time with Home Office annual statistics release. New data layout included severity by species, percentage of severity, graphical percentage of breeding and experimental procedure for mice and zebrafish, and rehoming data. AWERB Minutes annual upload, summary of Aims, Harms and Benefits of approved projects across 2022 and two new 3Rs themed impact case studies planned to be uploaded in the coming weeks	
6.2	Named Persons Meeting with Establishment Licence Holder, discussion of plans for new 3Rs resources.	
6.3	Reminders sent to research community regarding AWERB summer schedule	
6.4	PPL Holders contacted to encourage attendance at upcoming Experimental Design Assistant training sessions	
6.5	Relevant 3Rs CPD opportunities circulated to relevant stakeholders.	

<p>7</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p>	<p>Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) Report</p> <p>One SC18 report submitted with no ongoing welfare concerns. Noted slow response rate from regulator.</p> <p>Short term heating issues seen due to building error – no welfare concerns following this.</p>	
<p>8</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p> <p>8.4</p>	<p>Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer (NACWO) Report</p> <p>Increase in successful sharing through the internal tissue sharing network via the breeding unit.</p> <p>Mouse swings added to breeding enrichment selection.</p> <p>New supplier-led pre-screening step for large animal importation.</p> <p>Refined filters to be installed in the zebrafish aquarium.</p>	
<p>9</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p>Project Licences – New Applications.</p> <p>PPL.1Jul23</p> <p>Aims: To advance understanding of how neural processing within the cerebellum and its interconnections with the rest of the nervous system controls behaviour, including higher brain functions of cognition and emotion.</p> <p>Harms: Rats and mice, all moderate, surgery, injection of neuroactive substances into brain, probes, miniscopes, and other interventions non aversive and aversive behaviour tests, food/water restriction.</p> <p>Benefits: The outlined studies will generate data relevant to advancing understanding of the neural processes that underpin behaviour. In the longer term, it is to be hoped that by advancing knowledge in this field, the work will contribute to the identification of improved treatments for patients suffering from a range of conditions involving cerebellar defects, such as spinocerebellar ataxias and essential tremor and generalised anxiety disorder.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline of translational benefits • Use of both sexes • Relevance of animal models • Frequency and maximum intervals • Experimental units and statistical confidence • Experimental parameters of aversive behavioural tests 	<p>Approved subject to clarifications</p>

9.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schedule around diet restriction <p>PPL.2Jul23 Aims: To generate the data needed to facilitate the translation of novel medical devices into the clinical setting, such as the NHS.</p> <p>Harms: pigs, all non-recovery procedures</p> <p>Benefits: Performance and safety data, generated to Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) standards, for new medical devices.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of local AWERB approvals for each proposed study Likely stages of development of clinical devices for testing Quality assurance and market feasibility Intentions and breadth of non-recovery surgery 	Internal review process form should be generated and reviewed by AWERB prior to licence submission.
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1Jun23 Secondary availability Changes to text of adverse affects	Approved
10.2	PPLAmend.2Jun23 Update to scientific aims Addition of non-Schedule 1 killing technique Update to adverse effects Inclusion of optional miniscope probe implantation step	Approved. NVS to observe and assist in training
10.3	PPLAmend.3Jun23 Secondary availability Update to procedure physiological site	Approved subject to discussion
10.4	PPLAmend.4Jun23 Alternative optional housing options	Approved

10.5	PPLAmend.5Jun23 Increase in animal numbers	Approved
11	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	Secretary to inform
11.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN 1 - 8 AWERB approved: 1, 3 - 8 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2 AWERB did not yet approved:	
11.1.1	UINs to note: UIN.2 Clarify what samples will be taken.	Secretary to inform
11.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: VIN.1, 2 AWERB approved: 1, 2 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB not yet approved:	
11.2.1	VINs to note:	
12	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments VINAmend.1Jul23 – not approved, as amendment request would cross into ASPA regulation. UINAmend.1Jul23 - approved UINAmend.2Jul23 - approved	
13	AWERB Hub. (None)	
14	Any Other Business.	
14.1	Discussion should be scheduled about licences that can support more than one research group	

15.	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice): Proposed dates for next academic year circulated via email.	
-----	---	--