

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 19th March 2024, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 11 x members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (20 th February 2024)	
3.1	3.1 Generation of communal SOPs for audit preparation progressing - rolling project, AWERB to be updated at relevant milestones.	Complete
3.2	3.2 Governance routes for commercial work carried out under service PPLs.	Complete.
3.3	3.3 Collaborative ASU/researcher nesting enrichment study	Complete.
3.4	3.4 Streamlining process for VIN owner follow-up contact.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.5 Establishment of UK-wide association of veterinary research reviewers.	Complete.
3.6	3.6 Zebrafish GAA Passport	Ongoing.
3.7	3.8 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas.	Ongoing
3.8	3.9 Discussion should be scheduled about licences that can support more than one research group. To be built into PPL Guidance.	Complete.
4	Chair's Report	
4.1	Outcome of governance discussions and subsequent approval of PPLAmend.Dec23	

4.2	Discussion of recent letter to Animals in Science Committee, revising details discussed at previous ad hoc AWERB focused meeting and associated potential actions for licence holders. Discussion of NC3Rs position statement.	Awaiting contact from ASRU
4.3	Openness Strategy and upcoming public engagement event.	
4.4	Consideration of PPL application wording around Replacement section	
5	NVS Report	
5.1	Wider discussion of outbreak and mediated water discussed in NACWO report (8.4)	
5.2	Activity lower than expected across animal units.	
6	NTCO	Chair commends the NTCO on range of oversight and supportive practices.
6.1	PIL licensing update ahead of new charge year. Update to pricing.	
6.2	Future course provision	
6.3	Additional practical session delivered for internal candidates, resulting positive feedback from attendees	
6.4	Review of Training and Competency records	
7	NIO Report	
7.1	Restarting of regular ASU communication event	
7.2	Development of new mailing list to widen communication reach	
7.3	Entry into Leaders in Openness initiative	
7.4	New format to news and CPD opportunities circulation, which has received positive feedback from the community	
7.5	Plans of 3Rs seminar series and attendance at recent experimental design talk	
8	NACWO Report	

8.1	Rodents moved to additional site – transport has gone well	
8.2	Some expected complications developed as a result of high-fat diet, treatment ongoing	
8.3	Health screens fine for aquarium	
8.4	Minor outbreak of non-pathogenic microorganism on one unit is currently being assessed for treatment through medicated water. No adverse welfare or health conditions seen or expected.	
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	<p>PPL.1Mar24</p> <p>Aims: To improve methods for assessing animal welfare by investigating how individual ('personality') differences affect welfare measures, and by using new data analysis approaches to better understand and enhance the reliability of welfare measures</p> <p>Benefits: A key determinant of animal welfare is whether they are in a positive or negative emotional (affective) state. New 'cognitive bias' markers of animal welfare have been developed which use how animals make decisions as an indicator of their emotional states. Recent analyses show that they have validity but also that there is variation in findings. The project will provide new information about the variability and reliability of cognitive bias measures of animal welfare allowing these methods to be improved by taking into account the effects of individual ('personality') differences, and by using new methods of data analysis. To this end, code will be produced for computational modelling methods that can be used to analyse cognitive bias data.</p> <p>Harms: Rats (including juvenile), mild. Behavioural tests with positive/negative transient outcomes such as food reward, no food reward, air puff.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likely wider impact of computational developments • Use of both sexes • Physiological factors determining variation in personality types • Use of faecal pellet to detect stress • Likely effect size • Technical language in lay summary • The balance of rehoming and reduction • Likely severity of licence 	Approved

10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1Mar24 Update to routes of injection of renal treatments under anaesthesia Additional ultrasound imaging technique Additional disease model	Approved
10.2	PPLAmend.2Mar24 Increase to number of animals due to increased objectives Expansion to range of GAA strains Additional step for genetic activation	Approved subject to changes
8	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
8.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN.1 - 4 AWERB approved: 2, 3, 4 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1 AWERB did not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
8.1.1	UINs to note: UIN.1 – clarification required on diet and expected effects.	
8.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: VIN.1 - 5 AWERB approved: VIN.1. 2, 5 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 3, 4 AWERB not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
8.2.1	VINs to note: VIN.3 – specify routes of data origins VIN.4 – clarification over participation numbers required.	

9	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments	
9.1	UINAmend.1 – Approved	
9.2	UINAmend.2 - Approved	
10	AWERB Hub. (None)	
11	Any Other Business.	
11.1	Discussion of results of recent AWERB feedback survey	<p>Prepare standard wording on likely areas of questioning in attendee scheduling email.</p> <p>AWERB to survey once a year, targeting PPL applicants who have interviewed across that period.</p> <p>Generation of AWERB role poster, and have themed communication event.</p>
12	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 23 Apr 2024 21 May 2024 18 Jun 2024 16 Jul 2024	