

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, Tuesday 19th January 2021, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 11 x AWERB members,	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	All up to date	Complete
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (15 th Dec 2020)	
3.1	3.1 Discussion of formalising draft PPL application review deadlines and production of guidance documents.	Ongoing.
3.2	3.2 Good response to volunteer GAA register invitation. Etiquette Document required prior to Tissue Sharing Network launch.	ASU/Chair to produce Etiquette doc.
3.3	3.3 Independent review of COVID-19 lockdown has been initiated by ELH.	Ongoing.
3.4	3.4 Structure of AWERB to be discussed at future ASU Management Board.	Ongoing.
3.5	3.5 IAT Lessons Leant document will be incorporated by item 3.3.	Complete.
3.6	3.6 Future AWERB auditing of techniques.	Ongoing
3.7	3.9 Discussion regarding process for Schedule 18. AWERB agrees the current process complies fully with all requirements.	Complete
3.8	12.2.2 Interpretation of HO guidance regarding the sample collection of residual blood. Chair to seek further written guidance from the RCVS and then discuss this with our HOI.	Ongoing
4	Chairs Report	

4.1	Animal Science Committee Harm Benefit Analysis Report available to view.	NACWO Team to discuss Ongoing
4.2	Discussed recent lifetime experience of laboratory animals' paper and approaches to evaluating and refining the cumulative suffering of research animals.	
4.3	ASU to formalise enrichment piloting process and explore options for undertaking controlled trials to provide data to inform future guidance and policies.	
4.4	Welfare Escalation Policy review.	
5	NTCO Report.	
5.1	Report showed some expired techniques due to COVID-19 lockdowns. Refresher training required prior to resuming animal work.	
5.2	Internal audit of License Registration process.	
5.3	Planned licensee training courses to go ahead.	
5.4	Training and competency records checked for PPL and PPL Amendment applicants.	
5.5	Discussion regarding confirmation methods of required competency updates.	
6	NIO Report.	
6.1	ASU have supported the continuation of research after Christmas holiday period.	
6.2	Contingency plans and resilience reviews continue.	
6.3	Consulting researchers regarding reverse lighting needs.	
6.4	Building management systems are being upgraded.	
6.5	NIO role to be formalised.	
7	NVS Report.	Ongoing
7.1	Section 18 report submitted in December 2020. AWERB to view Final Incident Report for next meeting.	

7.2	An unexpected mortality seen within a current PPL, was within the potential adverse effects but NVS has recommended a review of the monitoring protocol.	Complete
7.3	Zebrafish sentinels have been sent off for health screening.	Ongoing
8	NACWO reports.	
8.1	Some genotyping now being outsourced.	
8.2	Introduction of a hammock into some cages saw positive results for combating stereotypical behaviour in mice.	
8.3	Positive behaviours expressed by mice housed in larger cages.	
8.4	Aquatic facility re-opens for non-ASPA regulated work.	
8.5	Examples of continued refinements across animal units.	
9	Project Licences – New Applications.	
9.1	None to review for this meeting.	
10	Project Licences – Amendments.	
10.1	PPLAmend.1Jan21 - changes to protocol to permit a modified behavioural approach and different testing regimes with an anticipated 3Rs benefit.	Approved
10.2	PPLAmend.2Jan21 - minor amendment to facilitate use of alternative drug delivery method. No additional suffering anticipated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPL holder must ensure experimental pellets are sterile. 	Approved
10.3	PPLAmend.3Jan21 - addition of new protocol to facilitate efficacy studies of a novel coronavirus vaccine. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair led the discussion to avoid conflict of interest. Need for the amendment and potential benefits were clearly outlined Study to be carried out in appropriate biosecurity conditions. Welfare checklist 	Approved
11	Project Licence Reviews.	

11.1	Mid Term Reviews	
11.1.1	<p>PPLMTR.2Dec20: Emotional behaviour and psychiatric disorders in a rodent model, alongside development of 3R's methodologies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal numbers within projected range. • One Section 18 report with appropriate follow up actions taken. • Multiple research articles generated. • Future funding and clear progression of research 	Approved
11.2	Home Office Retrospective Reviews. (None)	
11.3	Final Reviews.	
11.3.1	<p>PPLFR.1Jan21 – Impact of drug addiction, overdose, and withdrawal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal numbers within projected range. • Number of minor refinements implemented. • Number of publications. • Further funding to continue work. 	Approved
11.3.2	<p>PPLFR.2Jan21 – Cardiovascular disease research.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small proportion of animals estimated used. • Number of minor refinements implemented. • Further funding received to continue work. 	Approved
12	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
12.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1-5 AWERB approved: UIN.1, 2 & 5 AWERB approved pending clarifications: UIN.3 & 4 AWERB did not yet approve: None</p>	Secretary to inform
12.1.1	UINs to note:	
12.1.1.1	UIN.3; UIN.4 – how will rotation of the subjects be implemented to prevent overuse? Suggest including specific end of use policy e.g. re-homing, release to wild or schedule 1 killing.	Secretary to inform

12.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1, 2. AWERB approved: VIN.1, 2. AWERB approved pending clarifications: None AWERB did not yet approved: None .</p>	Secretary to inform
12.2.1	<p>VINs to note: None</p>	
13	<p>Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments None</p>	
14	<p>AWERB Hub.</p>	
14.1	Poll for lay members.	
15	<p>For Information.</p>	
15.1	RSPCA/LASA/LAVA/IAT AWERB-UK meeting in February	
15.2	RSPCA Focus on Fish – online conference in February	
15.3	NC3R's rat tickling seminar	
16	<p>Any Other Business.</p>	
16.1	Minutes now to be published online.	
16.2	ECR 3R's group meeting	
17.1	<p>Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice):</p> <p>Tuesday 23rd February 2021 Tuesday 16th March 2021 Tuesday 27th April 2021 Tuesday 18th May 2021</p>	

	Tuesday 15th June 2021 Tuesday 20th July 2021	
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