



The Roslin Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 28th April [REDACTED] /Microsoft Teams Hybrid option
Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies.

- Apologies: [REDACTED]

2. Minutes of last meeting:

- The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on 28th March 2025.

Matters arising/Action points

- None tabled.

3. Presentations to the committee:

1. Additional availability project licence

The committee heard a short presentation on the project licence application on [REDACTED]. The research is interested in specific areas of the brain and their responses to acidosis following specific behavioural studies. The research aims are to induce [REDACTED] to look at specific areas of the brain and how they are affected, the committee noted threshold limits for these and requested information on adverse effects. Noted that the NACWO has almost 30 years experience working with the animals [REDACTED]. For these studies the animals will be trained to remain still in the MRI, however if the animals cannot be trained then the focus will shift to sedation.

Questions:

- Committee felt that keeping animals still may be an issue however the procedure would be split up to minimize time within the MRI.
- 6 animals in total are planned to be imaged.
- Suggested that the amendment should include details in the Animal Experience section to reflect the typical animal experience.
- The applicant discussed the animal experience within the facility and the various procedures involved.
- The committee asked about how animals adapted [REDACTED]
- It was noted that the studies would be sex matched ideally 3 males and 3 females.
- The committee asked about [REDACTED]
- Some issues noted with [REDACTED]

Committee Discussion on application

- Concerns about the success of the study and the use of the “dummy” MRI, clarified that a prototype may be possible but can it be confirmed that this resources is available.
- Concerns raised about the training and if this fails with any animals. Would it be possible to sedate some animals and not others, how would this affect the results?
- What about considering the mobile MRI truck for the studies? Perhaps we could consider this and it would be much less stressful for the animals.
- Why would it not be possible to sedate/anaesthetize all animals, this would mean a more consistent approach?
- Is there any evidence that animals are stressed during transport? Can it be confirmed that the animals are not stressed, what is the evidence for this?

Action: summary of points conveyed to applicants with a follow up in due course once points addressed.

2. Presentation

The committee heard a very interesting presentation from [REDACTED] on his proposed amendment.

Questions

- The committee asked why cattle were not being used as potentially more relevant. This is due to the time taken to produce cattle which would be outwith the timescale of the project, therefore the focus is on [REDACTED]

3. Overseas Research application [REDACTED] **: no presentation**

- ACTION: ask applicant to come to next AWERB meeting.

4. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB

none

Amendment applications under consideration by the AWERB:

none

Overseas research applications for consideration

For information OS06-25 reference [REDACTED] : approved

5. Updates and Reports

- [REDACTED] **Director update:**
- Situation at ASRU remains difficult, everyone trying very hard to keep things moving and as normal a service as possible.
- AWERB Training: we are moving ahead with this.
- Publication policy: this will be formally published in May.
- Roadshows: these will happen in May and are in progress.
- Strategic planning: a questionnaire will be circulated.
- **NVS update:**
- No issues with poultry everything in order.

- SC18: lighting issue in [REDACTED] reported [REDACTED]
- Refreshers: Central AWERB chair will present at the refreshers. We will include a list of names for this event as this is important for transparency. If anyone has any concerns with this please do let us know. None offered.
- **NTCO update:**
[REDACTED] training course planning and organisation for June.
- **PEL Holder update:**
 - None tabled
- **Edinburgh AWERB report:**
 - Most inspectors will leave by 30th June, still unaware of how recruitment has gone and plans for licences after this date. Been proactive in sending them in as soon as possible.
 - AWERB continues to be busy.
 - Continuing to submit licence applications as early as possible.
 - [REDACTED] refreshers 8th and 19th May.
- **Reports from Facilities**
 - Farms [REDACTED]**
 - Black start: power was lost for 40seconds then generator activated.
 - Lighting issue: Lights remained on during a study when they should have been off. All lights were on within the facility and had been on continuously for a period from the Friday to the Tuesday. Unlikely welfare issues [REDACTED]. Looking at other mechanisms for ensuring that light monitoring can be checked, noted that lighting is not covered by the BMS.
 - One member of staff (junior tech) leaving end of May.
 - NACWO refresher training completed.
 - [REDACTED] study completed and [REDACTED] study ongoing awaiting further updates.
 - [REDACTED] 2: due to current Uni finances, will be put on hold for a year. Funding however has been provided by BBSRC so a case has been put into Estates to explain that we cannot use this funding and the new work needs to be completed. At this stage unknown if the work will be completed, this will have issues as [REDACTED] is at end of life. Considered that a letter of support from AWERB would be helpful.
 - **Poultry.**
 - [REDACTED] is closing: 3 lines of birds on the ground [REDACTED] and the rest of the work is being wound down, lines being cryopreserved and all tissues used where possible. A letter has been prepared to explain that this closure is not related to the financial situation at the University, this is completely separate.
 - **Chick embryo room:** no report.
 - **Aquaculture Facility:**
 - [REDACTED] Report**
 1. It is anticipated that another GM salmon study will be under taken in late May/June, with a view that these will be transferred to [REDACTED] (physically and onto their PPL) for disease challenge.
 2. The process of developing the facilities for [REDACTED] in the Middle Wing are advancing.
 - **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:**

- [REDACTED] AWERB hub event on April 2nd had useful content on replacements, information requested and will be circulated.

6. Project Licences *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

None

Project Licence amendments *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

none

7. A.O.C.B: none

Date of next meeting: 26th May 2025 [REDACTED] Hybrid option via MS teams 1.30pm