

# AWERB Minutes 19th June and 31st July 2025

The University of Edinburgh  
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body  
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986



Meeting of [REDACTED] AWERB on Thursday June 19th and Thursday 31st July.

1. **Apologies for absence and minutes approved**
2. **Matters Arising: none**

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3. **(a) To consider and advise the Establishment licence holder (PEL) on new Project licence Applications**

	Comments	Outcome
PL28-24 [REDACTED]	<b>Minor Points to be addressed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Typos need to be corrected</li><li>• Some weight loss limits to be adjusted</li></ul>	<b>Approved subject to final sub-committee approval</b>
PL21-25 [REDACTED]	<b>Minor Points to be addressed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adverse effects need to be aligned with the severity of the protocols</li><li>• The suitability of some controls and experimental design have been queried</li></ul>	<b>Approved subject to final sub-committee approval</b>
PL20-25 [REDACTED]	<b>Points to be addressed</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some revisions to the NTS are needed, especially the impact on the animals.</li><li>• Request that the lay member has sight of the application as there are a number of points that would benefit from this being reviewed.</li><li>• Also noted that there is mention to non-procedural harms which may not be appropriate for a non technical summary.</li><li>• Important to remember that we are not looking at a disease but the health of a population this needs to be emphasised in the NTS.</li><li>• Capture methods for the NTS need to be made clearer for the general public.</li></ul> <div>[REDACTED]</div>	<b>Approved subject to final sub-committee approval</b>
PL22-25 [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Noted this is a large and complex licence</li><li>• Stronger justification needed for funding as not fully funded, could we consider a smaller licence.</li><li>• Applicant not keen to remove any protocols from the licence currently, 14 protocols in total.</li><li>• Objectives need to be improved and made clearer.</li><li>• Harms and endpoints need to be clearer for example the use of severe in a moderate protocol.</li></ul>	<b>Re-submission to committee once points addressed</b>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He needs to review endpoints for weight loss, some earlier endpoints could be considered.</li> <li>• Needs to clarify how analgesic approaches could be considered, this is not clear.</li> <li>• Timelines for admin of substances are currently open ended and unclear.</li> <li>• Science is justified but main concerns are the protocols.</li> <li>• Some issues with prolonged anaesthesia as some animals will be recovered.</li> </ul>	
PL24-25 [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent licence and well written.</li> <li>• Very good examples of refinement and reduction, noted for replacements that testing is carried out in cell cultures.</li> <li>• Noted that there does not appear to be a limit on the number of behavioural tests that an animal can experience, perhaps this could be clarified.</li> <li>• Numbers need to be clarified and justified, previous ROPs provided.</li> <li>• Details of monitoring and humane endpoints need to be in the protocols and not in the action plan.</li> <li>• Considered the combination of moderate and severe protocols, some animals could be extended into severe when under the moderate protocol they would end then. <b>Agreed</b> to keep them separate,</li> <li>• Some points about power calculations, why do they use the 90% threshold rather than 80%, more explanation is needed in relation to this.</li> <li>• Overall, an excellent licence just some minor points for consideration, noted that the clinical scoring is very good.</li> </ul>	<b>Approved subject to final sub-committee approval</b>

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

None

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

*For information only*

Approved: A26-25 [REDACTED] A27-25 [REDACTED], A29-25 [REDACTED]

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## Updates to the AWERB:

### 4. [REDACTED] Director report

- [REDACTED] is currently collaborating with Estates on different projects to find new ways of operating our animal facilities on a more sustainable way while preserving animal welfare and enhancing the control over environmental conditions.
- This includes controlling room humidity at cage level and moving towards dry heat sterilisation
- Noted that these two projects will avoid the need of steam generation and supply to the animal facilities.
- This may also include closing and decommissioning of old buildings
- The document [REDACTED] Guidance on Writing Animal Research for Publications will be made publicly available this week. It provides guidance on addressing both the ARRIVE Guidelines and the recent Laboratory Animal Genetic Reporting Guidelines, which are key to improving the reproducibility of animal research.

### 5. [REDACTED] Deputy Director report (Facilities)

- [REDACTED] audit: this is now completed, awaiting report but initial report is very positive noted a good culture and especially good relationships between techs and researchers.
- Some NACWO movements are currently planned giving opportunities for other staff and career progression.
- Current recruiting for grade 4 technicians.
- [REDACTED]: risk is low and being dealt with currently, unlikely to get into the facility.
- [REDACTED] evidence found [REDACTED], plant room is in mezzanine. [REDACTED] dealing with this currently.

### 6. NVS update to the committee

- four SC18s submitted since last meeting, all have been dealt with as appropriate.
- [REDACTED]: [REDACTED] has been recruited and this all went really well; [REDACTED] has been discharged and is recovering very well at home. PPL amendment is in progress to assist with future management and logistics of these studies, no welfare concerns.

### 7. NACWO update to the committee

- The committee heard an update on a study comparing ear punches with pen marking for identification. Animals that had pen marking were much more likely to exhibit normal behaviours and grooming This sounds very interesting and could be worth considering. Noted that this is already used in the habitat as a method for marking and that animals quickly adapt to this (the marking lasts a week) and has also been used on neo-natal pups. This could be good for the 3Rs committee to consider.

### 8. NTCO update to the committee

- Training record audit is going well, 150 records completed so far.

### 9. HOLC update to the committee

- Aspel pilot: [REDACTED] asked to participate in this, future meetings to follow
- One licence deadline extended till 20th June
- Number of inspectors will leave on the 30th June, some later in the year.
- [REDACTED] 17th, noted this went well.

### 10. [REDACTED] Deputy Director report (Home Office and Vets) none tabled (annual leave)

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████ **advisory committee**: consider asking an AWERB member to attend/join the █████ advisory committee.

**Communications**: consider a █████ sharepoint site for communications going forward from the █████ advisory committee.