



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 28/1/20

The University of Edinburgh

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 10/12/19

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1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
 2. **Attendance and Apologies**– please see separate sheet
 3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 10/12/19:** Approved
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4. **Matters arising and action point summary**

- **Discipline policy:** policy document to be produced - ██████ ongoing to be discussed at next AWERB.
- **New Lay members:** to consider recruitment of new lay members to the committee from June 2020. Noted that lay members can be part of the University. **Action** ██████ Email circulated
- **██████ film:** A short film has been made of the ██████ which has not yet been released. Update: consider assistance from ██████ group leaders in helping to promote the release of this film: action: ongoing ██████

5. **Named person update**

NVS update:

Health screening results were discussed in relation to detection of two predominantly subclinical pathogens detected in recent screens from different facilities.

NACWO update

- **Tube Handling:** this is generally going well, carried out training with users no issues raised.

3Rs update:

- Suggestions for speakers welcomed, the symposium will be held on the 28th May 2020.

Deputy director update:

Humidity issues in one facility, in room humidification being used and animals will be moving to another facility shortly

Discussed approaches to reducing numbers of wildtype mice across the different facilities

Rate cage height survey from RSPCA:

A recent paper looking at internal heights of rat cages was discussed. New cage purchases have the increased heights and we are moving to replace old style cages



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6. Consideration of Project licence applications and amendments

PL02-20 This project licence is from an experienced group leader with an excellent track record in the field of malaria research. It was noted that this was a very straightforward application with well established models, the application was approved pending revision of the minor points below:

- **Scientific justification:** some aspects of the techniques need greater scientific justification for example the use of constant lighting cycles in protocol 2.
- **Protocol 1:** discussed optimisation of animal use to minimise impact on individual animals. Could alternatives be used
- **Numbers protocol 1:** could numbers be reduced
- **Protocol 2:** suggest reduce suggested weight loss limit and consider options to minimise impact on individual animals .
- **Protocol 3:** please clarify selection of severity category-
- **Non-technical summary:** there are some terms which are too technical e.g. circadian rhythms.

PL03-20 This project licence is from a new group leader, in general the proposed work has been justified on a scientific level but significant revisions are required before the application can be submitted to the Home Office. It was agreed that this licence should be returned to the applicant for revision and discussion with peers and NVS with subsequent re-submission to the AWERB and reviewers for approval:

Summary of main points:

- **Funding:** this is currently rather vague and needs to be more specific for example details of funder's current and proposed should be included.
- **Experimental design:** needs to be more specific in terms of courses completed, any training courses undertaken.
- **Some protocols will only use males:** this will need robust justification and this is not clear in the application.
- **Consider that for first time applicants a much shorter and simpler licence is produced with limited techniques.**

Action: return application for further discussion with peers and NVS to assist with the revision of the project licence application.

PL05-20 This project licence is from a new group leader in dementia research, The application was approved subject to the completion of minor revisions below:

- **Human samples:** the application makes mention of human samples and their use but this requires clarification
- **Protocols:** standardisation of permitted weight loss throughout application is required as this is variable.
- **Breeding:** clarify the numbers of GA animals to be used in the application, currently these seem quite low.
- **NTS:** some acronyms have been used which should be revised.



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- **Experimental design sections:** some of the answers are relatively vague however no guidance has been produced from the Home Office on what should be included in these sections.

PL04-20 This project licence is from an experienced group leader, with an excellent track record in the field and It was noted that this was a very straightforward application with well-established models looking at a number of neurodevelopmental conditions. The application, involves mainly breeding and maintenance, and was approved pending revision of the minor points below:

- **Page 5:** issues with selecting basic or translational research, at the moment you cannot select between the 2 there is only one box to endorse. Clarify this issue with Home Office developers.
- **Protocol 2:** grip strength test clarify frequency of this.
- **Stranger test:** not clear if animals will be in direct contact, make this clearer in the application.
- **Monitoring:** clarify frequency of monitoring at the moment this just states “animals will be monitored frequently” is this weekly/daily/monthly?
- **Phenotyping tests:** this is currently quite restrictive, consider if homozygotes should also be phenotyped.

Amendment applications submitted to the AWERB

Full Review:

A04:20: Approved subject to clarification of minor points

A06-20:

Amendment to existing model with potential for increased weight loss. Discuss clarification of the text describing weight loss and use of flavoured diets to improve palatability

Sub-committee review: A83-19, A84-19, A86-19, A88-19, A89-19, A02-20 **All** approved

7. AOCB:

Full details in matters arising

Date of next Meeting: 25th February 2020