



[REDACTED]

The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 24th February 2020

[REDACTED]
Coffee and biscuits will be provided

Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies.

Apologies
[REDACTED]

2. Minutes of last meetings

The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on 11/12/2019.

3. Matters arising

- *Action:* presentation on progress with the fish facility (time to be confirmed).
- *Action:* presentation to AWERB by [REDACTED] (time to be confirmed).

4. Licences *submitted* to Home Office since last AWERB meeting

New Project licences

- None

Amended Project licences

- AWERB [REDACTED] 01-20

Minute revised 20/4/20: The chair wished to thank the subcommittee for their rapid response to the above amendment request, and in particular to the secretary for facilitating correct and due process in relation to its review.

5. Presentation

2.15pm: [REDACTED]: update on new PPL application to AWERB.

Summary: this application has already received funding and the project will focus on fertility preservation; [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This has already been shown to work in mice but larger animals are required for validation. If successful it is proposed that this technique will be taken forward to the clinic.

Outcomes for measurement are as follows:

- Fetal growth
- Weight of offspring
- Developmental monitoring of offspring until puberty.

Comments:

- Consider adding sheep to the title as this is currently not included.
- NTS: consider changing oocyte to eggs in the non-technical summary as members of the public may not be aware of this term.
- Will fertility be assessed in sheep first, how will this be checked? Pregnancy rates for sheep in current studies are 97%.

2.40pm: presentation [REDACTED]: proposed PPL amendment.

Application for additional availability, primary licence at Sheffield:

- This application for additional availability relates to the development of a [REDACTED], this is in conjunction with the [REDACTED].
- The licence should be returned to the full committee in April for final approval before submission to the Home Office.

3pm: presentation by [REDACTED]:

This presentation was given to update the committee on progress made in relation to the [REDACTED] pig project.

- [REDACTED] researchers have visited [REDACTED] and are confident that the pigs are phenotypically normal.
- The timeline for the project commencing will be later this year dependent on transportation times and licence approval.
- The committee discussed some practical issues in relation to co-housing and transport of animals.

6. PPL review

No new project license applications

PPL amendment review:

- A08-20 ([REDACTED]): awaiting some additional information on the health status of the pigs to the NVS. After this is received the amendment will be submitted.

7. **Overseas research proposals:**

OS1-20: approved

OS2-20: approved pending any additional comments, to be circulated to the applicant for comment. It was noted that the AWERB were happy that ethical review had been carried out in the country where the research was being carried out. However it was noted that standards of care and legislation are much higher in the UK.

8. Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care: no items tabled

9. Statistics and experimental design

- Training on experimental design given, approx. 40 staff and PhD students attending.

10. NVS and NTCO update

- Condition 18 reports: these have increased however this reflects better communication between vets and users and the Home Office are very happy with this. The guidance now states that all reports should be submitted (this can be verbal) to the Home Office within 3 days.
- [REDACTED] work: this has now been concluded and there is no intention from the research group to continue. Once the DEFRA report is available the AWERB will be updated.
- [REDACTED] studies have concluded, animals recovered well following the procedure.
- Re-training of cannulation in calves: some training of personnel (veterinary surgeon) has been completed.

11. PEL Holder update: the AWERB were made aware of the appointment of our current PEL to a new post. Once the replacement is in place the committee will be made aware.

12. Reports from Facilities

- Farms ([REDACTED]) – ([REDACTED]) update ([REDACTED]): The official [REDACTED] opening will be on 10th March. An open day for university staff will follow on 11th March.

Dryden:

- lambing will commence shortly
- The building of new properties on the [REDACTED] is presenting some challenges to operations at [REDACTED]. Once houses are built a new road will be in place which will only be used for [REDACTED] and emergency vehicles.

- Poultry ([REDACTED])
[REDACTED] update: 24/02/2020

- Birds/Eggs: New generation (all lines) in lay.
- Chicks hatched w/c Jan & Feb have tested CAM +ve. Blood samples to be taken for confirmation and line transfer has been successful.
- Poultry health scheme membership to be applied for after flock testing.
- Building: Ventilation problem leading to reduction/loss of +ve pressure in one laying room, now resolved.

Health/Welfare:

- [REDACTED] birds. These have been split into smaller groups. Birds will be closely monitored for aggression.
- Storage area to rear of building now complete. Feed has been removed to this area which allows appropriate storage.
- SOPS: SOPS on food and water supply have been updated and appropriate training provided.

- Enrichment for young birds has been facilitated using sweet tins. Cardboard ‘forts’ have been used in pens of young birds with pecking issues. These seem to promote good interaction.
- Building Transfer hatch now fitted. Agreement on collection times etc. to be put in place prior to use. Waste conveyer fully operational and in daily use.
- Staffing: [REDACTED] supervisor position to be advertised imminently along with stock worker post. Modern apprentices to be interviewed on Friday 28th Feb.
- Chick Embryo room - [REDACTED]
No updates
- Aquaculture Facility - [REDACTED]
This has now been approved by the Home Office and the room has been added to the establishment licence. Work should commence shortly in this facility.

13. A.O.B.

14. Date of next meeting: 20th April 2020 Microsoft teams 2pm