



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 26/01/2021

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 26/01/2020

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending,
 2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 15th December 2020: approved**
 3. **Scientific presentation: Camarades group:** this presentation was about a planned study looking at experimental request forms and publications- what animal data gets published? This would be a preliminary study. The committee were also updated on progress with the online training in study design.
Discussion points noted:
 1. Suggestions that researchers are informed that data will be mined.
 2. Recognition that some studies can take a long time to publish depending on the work involved.
 3. How is other work, for example PhD studies (where this may not be published) considered?
 4. Impact on University: could highlighting poor publication records reflect badly on the University.**Summary:** At this stage, the analysis will be broad and will look simply at ERFs and analysis of publications using the researcher and research contained within the ERF.
-

4. **Matters arising and action point summary**

- **AWERB video clips:** recognised that this had not progressed but would become part of the wider discussion re improving AWERB visibility in 2021 **Action: ongoing** [redacted] to discuss
- **Analysis of publication record by ERFs: Action:** [redacted] an email will be prepared for dissemination to researchers using animals. **complete**
- **In-vivo research training:** noted that a review of the course is underway with possible plans for the course to be placed on Learn. **Action: further updates on progress will follow**

5. **Named person and Director updates**

Directors update:

1. **PEL holder:** The new [redacted] will take over the PEL and paperwork will be completed this week.
2. **Risk meeting with home office:** a formal risk meeting will take place on 17/2/2021.
3. **Forced Swim Test:** current interest from PETA in this test. It was noted that the FST has been removed from an existing PPL by way of an amendment.
4. **Staffing:** noted that staffing pressures are greater during this lockdown.
5. **AWERB away day:** an away day is planned for later in the year to discuss areas for potential improvement/discussion



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 26/01/2021

Deputy Directors update:

- **Staffing:** some pressures on staffing due to new lockdown. Measures taken to protect staff include high levels of PPE and reduced working hours to avoid mixing.
- **Estates:** issues with humidity at the [REDACTED] (under investigation). Lighting issues in 2 facilities with the use of data loggers to monitor lighting being considered.
- **Aquatics:** some staff working from home for shielding/protection as less robust RPE worn in this facility.
- [REDACTED]: Further water ingress has occurred from an upstairs building, no major damage. Contingency plan with researchers being worked out should further issues arise. All animal work removed from risk area in building.
- [REDACTED] **staffing:** existing deputy FM will move to [REDACTED], this has been well received.

NVS update

- **Routine visits:** suspended at the moment but attending units where required for animal welfare issues. No concerns in terms of care of animals or support currently.
- **Brexit:** some issues with imports and exports, vets being trained to facilitate new paperwork required for Brexit.
- **Health screening:** samples are now being sent to America instead of Germany, working well with just some minor issues to resolve (related to samples from TSE animals)
- **Zebrafish:** noted that analgesia has now been included in two new ZF applications.

NACWO update:

- [REDACTED] **cage wash:** this failed over Christmas but has now been repaired.
- **Staff working pattern:** the 5 hour working pattern has been very successful.
- [REDACTED]: discussion on challenges in working with and setting up a potential colony of [REDACTED]. They offer a number of benefits including having menstrual cycles which could be very useful for reproductive studies.

NTCO update

- **No report tabled training currently suspended due to COVID**

6. Project licences under consideration:

PL10-2020: Approved for re-submission

Summary:

- Noted that major improvements have been made to this licence
- Noted that the licence contains very minimal procedures with very limited risk to the establishment, most procedures only involve breeding and maintenance.
- Discussed challenges where applicants do not follow guidance- incredibly time consuming



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 26/01/2021

7. **a. Amendment applications submitted to the full AWERB:**
Additional Availability application: PL48-20 [REDACTED]: approved

8. **Retrospective reviews:**

RR01-21 ([REDACTED]): **approved:** suggest adding publications to the review to reflect the excellent example of reduction within this project licence.

Approved

9. **A.O.C.B:** none

Date of next Meeting: 23rd February 2021 10am MS teams