



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 25 January 2022

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 25/01/2022

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.– Apologies - [REDACTED]
2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 07/12/2021: approve.** [REDACTED] will give a presentation at February 2022 meeting. [REDACTED] amendment was heard at emergency meeting.
3. **Presentation:** the committee heard a presentation from a group working on Refinement of tickling protocols to improve positive animal welfare in laboratory rats. The committee were asked to assess whether the work was regulated and agreed that the procedures as described in wild type animals should not be regarded as regulated. However if there are any changes to the techniques used particularly food restriction this project should be referred back to the AWERB.

4. Named person and Director updates

Directors update:

- We are in a good position after Christmas.
- **Recruitment:** Post of Deputy HOLC has been created and appointed.. With the agreement of PEL holder, this post is for 0.5 FTE and will be a great addition to the team and give the team stability. Everyone delighted.

5. Deputy Director (Facilities) update:

- **Staffing:** Staffing over Christmas worked well in spite of COVID challenges
- **Recruitment:** Continuing in good shape. We are currently recruiting for another MA. Using [REDACTED] as a new approach to hiring quality staff with training for 13 weeks and then the option to take them on permanently for a small fee.
- [REDACTED] Cage wash progressing well, new robot now fitted. Rack washer is coming w/c 24/01/2022 from America. Working with Estates on planning rooms
- [REDACTED] Humidifiers being fitted to rooms owing to ongoing issues with low humidity.
- [REDACTED] Back up steam and power in place.
- [REDACTED] Steam issues. Working with Estates to ensure appropriate steam supply.

6. NVS update:

- **Condition 18:** The NVS presented recent cndtn 18 reports to the committee. NVS to look at text on GA page and emphasise to check GA appendices carefully when transferring animals to another group.

7. NACWO update:

- **Staffing:** [REDACTED] been at [REDACTED] for 3 months and will be moving permanently to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] moving permanently to [REDACTED] w/e/f 7 February 2022 and will take over NACWO.
- Had a good start to the year.
- Congratulated Scientists, Techs and NVS on how well they worked together for HO Audit.



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8. NTCO update:

- **PPL:** New document in draft to combine processes for applying for licence and training. Then will be handed out when applying for licence. Training dates added to NVS part of website.
- **EUROC Course:** discussions had on how to increase uptake of this course, plan to be put into place. Add to February agenda and see how it slots into training for PIL holders. Need to keep going with this so the course does not fade into the background. Certificates are the current challenge- needs fixed

9. HOLC update to the committee:

- **Returns:** Currently in progress. Being routed through ASPEL, 2 presentations have been delivered to PPL holders which were well attended. Some issues around Aspel login and slowness of the system however 116 returns already completed out of 208 in total for 2021.
- **Licences.:** turnaround time Not too bad. New licences are being granted quickly. Sending request I at 6-month time, some are coming back in 4-6 weeks.
- **HO:** meeting used to be joint with HO and HOLC but since changes HO not been attending. Meeting not as valuable lots to discuss with no input from the other side. [REDACTED] signed up to another joint meeting and will report back after attendance.

10. (a) Project licences under consideration:

PL01-22:

This is the 3rd licence application from an experienced PPL holder with a large group, the aims of the project are to [REDACTED]. The sub-committee noted that while revisions are required the application could be submitted to the home office subject to revision of the points detailed below (further AWERB review is not required).

- Some protocols have been copied and pasted within Aspel and detailed checking is required.
- The details of how parasite infection in the host is measured is not clearly described in the application; for example what measurements will be used? What clinical signs will be observed?
- **Severity:** within each of the protocols the anticipated severity is identical with 25% moderate, 75% mild. Clarify that this has not been a copy and paste error, there may be differences in severity between protocols.
- **Killing steps:** A combined single step for both Schedule 1 and non-Schedule 1 techniques should be included.
- **Terminology:** ensure terminology is consistent and up to date, some outdated references such as VSS should be updated.
- **Single housing:** this is given as an optional step in all 8 protocols, clarify if this is required in every protocol.
- **Weighing:** no requirement for a separate weighing step within protocols, this should be covered in the section on humane endpoints.



PL02-22:

This is a transfer of a PPL holder owing to the departure of the current holder. Straightforward application. Proposed new holder currently involved in amendments and is aware of the work involved, voluntarily undertaking refresher training and anything additional that will help familiarise him with the process. Completing mandatory training for PPL holders. No concerns raised.

PL02-22:

This is a transfer of PPL holder owing to the imminent departure of the existing holder. The PPL licences work related to [REDACTED] and concerns were raised as to whether the new PPL holder had appropriate experience for this. Agreed that, as this PPL has a limited time to run the change was appropriate but the AWERB requested a further review of the appropriate PPL holder at the time of renewal. [REDACTED] who works under this PPL is undertaking PPL holder training and would be appropriate.

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

None

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved: A65-21 [REDACTED], A69-71 [REDACTED], A71-21 [REDACTED] A72-71 [REDACTED] A74-21 [REDACTED]

11. Overseas Research applications:

- [REDACTED] **OS10-21:** Already been approved in FIO
- [REDACTED] **OS1-22:** Limited comments so far, still to come in from other reviewers and will be circulated to Committee. Some concerns raised around the science but also husbandry and housing. Request additional information as American standards may be different. Only receiving tissues but still potential risk to UoE reputation. Discussed AWERB authority in this situation. AWERB would make a recommendation and further discussions if rejected would then take place at higher levels of university if required,

12. A.O.C.B:

Date of next Meeting: 22/02/2022 10am MS Teams