



Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 22nd January 2022 2pm
2pm Microsoft teams
Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies.

Apologies
[REDACTED]

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on the 6th December 2021.

3. Matters arising/Action points

- Presentations to be encouraged for upcoming meetings where opportunity arises.
- Obtain details of recent poultry refinements which could be presented to the committee.
- Approach [REDACTED] to give a presentation at the February 2022 meeting.

4. NVS update:

[REDACTED] A few incidents have been reported since the last meeting. None of these were reported to the home office as not related to regulated procedures. These are detailed below:

- One [REDACTED] lamb found dead, no procedures carried out, rare ovarian tumour detected on PME.
- A [REDACTED] pup was culled due to loss of condition PME was inconclusive but weight loss deemed unrelated to genotype.
- An embryo transfer recipient died as a consequence of OPA associated with bronchopneumonia.

- Avian flu: additional bio-security checks were performed and visits to the units carried out. One swan found dead in vicinity of campus, however no avian flu cases reported. Movement restrictions have now been lifted in [REDACTED]
- Pecking: one incident in the [REDACTED] line, giving additional enrichments has resolved this.
- Laying: reduced laying in some birds from a specific line, currently investigating potential reasons for this.

5. NTCO update: Training assessments currently quiet. This year will focus on looking at SOPs for training as this was an area highlighted within the audit.

6. PEL Holder update: audit report will be discussed in a later point. Whilst the efficient running of the audit reflected input at multiple levels, the motivation and attention to detail exemplified by the PEL holder were key elements in inspiring all involved.

7. Reports from Facilities

- **Farms** [redacted] work for [redacted] is underway, a new farm manager has been appointed and will take up post on the 28/02/2022. Stockperson vacancy has not been filled and agency staff may be used temporarily until the post can be filled.
- [redacted] Building works should be completed shortly. Staff shortages (3 staff members) currently isolating due to covid/close contacts, some work has had to be delayed because of this. Pig surgeries: 80 gilts are here pending surgical work. 3 swans have found dead within the estate and DEFRA has been contacted, still awaiting final information and updates on these birds.
- **Poultry** [redacted] Over Christmas facilities were quiet which was helpful in terms of avian flu controls. No staffing issues currently, no staff currently isolating to Covid
- [redacted] **building:** [redacted] line, chicks hatched are healthy no issues reported. [redacted] line: although previous issues noted, recent birds have been healthy and no issues with body condition. Other work includes spring cleaning of sheds. Ability to [redacted] from embryos is progressing (avoids the need for live birds), one line has already been frozen down, other lines are in progress.
- **Chick Embryo room** – [redacted] no report tabled
- **Aquaculture Facility** - [redacted] no report tabled.
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** [redacted] has a Masters student who will spend time in the [redacted] building, a [redacted] student will also conduct a project within the poultry facilities. Both projects will be 3Rs based and will use video-recording of chick behaviors within the facility to look at the impact of different types of enrichment on behaviour. Culture of care initiative has been commenced with one of the NVS (central AWERB) taking the lead on this, this initiative will involve the regulated community and further updates will be given at subsequent meetings.

8. **Statistics and experimental design:** no report tabled.

9. Licences **submitted** to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

none

10. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB

A01-22 [redacted] Noted that the details of this amendment were presented at the AWERB meeting in December

The amendment will focus on the treatment of [redacted] The model will be established in pigs and will use [redacted] as a potential treatment.

Outcome: it was agreed that the comments could be circulated to the applicant and then returned to the sub-committee for final approval and then subsequent approval by our AWERB and the [redacted] AWERB.

Discussion:

1. This is a pilot study but 18 pigs are proposed, this is a much higher number than anticipated for a pilot and there is no information on experimental design and modelling of group size.
2. Swabbing: there is a proposal to swab the urethra to initiate the UTI, there is however not much published information on this technique (only in mini-pigs). The committee felt that more information and justification of this is required. It was recognized however that this was a much less invasive technique.
3. Urine collection: this is to be collected directly from the bladder under ultrasound however this has not been clearly described within the amendment.
4. Pain management: painful urination may occur and this should be added to the potential adverse effects section, details of appropriate analgesia should be included, this may even be given pre-emptively.
5. NTS: some greater clarification of the purposes of this work could have been given, there was no mention of the additional study and the way of conducting it (purpose of the amendment)
6. Objectives of this study were not clearly defined, this should be refined.

11. Overseas research application: [redacted] approved)

12. Audit review findings: the HO found that we were compliant across all areas, (24 page report) only one minor finding was noted which was to detail that PPL holders were potentially too reliant on named people in their approach. The AWERB wished to acknowledge the huge amount of work involved in responding to the audit, and thank all those who contributed for their excellent and very professional approach to bringing this to such a successful conclusion.

13. A.O.C.B:

██████████ PPL (additional availability): this was discussed at a recent ██████████ facility meeting. It was noted that some aspects of the granted PPL appear to vary from the final version agreed with ██████████. This is currently being discussed with the PPL holder and the team at ██████████. Follow up communications on this matter will be sent to the team at ██████████ and the PPL holder in order to rectify these discrepancies.

14. Date of next meeting: 21st February 2pm, Microsoft Teams.