



## Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 24/01/2023

The University of Edinburgh

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

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Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 24/01/2023

*Microsoft Teams*

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- Welcome** The Chair welcomed the new lay member [REDACTED] and also the [REDACTED] – **separate attendance log**
  - Minutes of Meeting held on 15/12/2022:** *approved*
  - Matters arising:** It was noted that the committee agreed to use the previous meeting structure where project licence applications would be considered first followed by the named person reports. This will be reviewed going forward.

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#### 4. (a) Project licences under consideration:

##### PL01-23: PPL application

This was a very well written application with only very minor issues, some very minor points are detailed below: application approved subject to revision of very minor points :

- Add mandatory step for Sch1 killing methods.

##### PL02-23: PPL application

This is a very well written PPL with only minor comments detailed, the can be approved subject to revision of specific points.

- No justification for ageing studies on a scientific basis.
- Some additional monitoring required for GA mice.
- NTS: may be useful to have a brief description of chromatin in the NTS.

##### PL03-23: PPL application

This is a renewal of an existing PPL from a clinician. The committee were happy to approve the application subject to addressing the comments detailed below:

- Weight loss: some concerns around the 40% weight loss, the previous licence had 30%, this application has detailed 40% with a moderate protocol which would not be accepted.
- Weight loss: If the applicant agrees to reduce the weight loss to 30% and increase the protocol to severe, the application would not require to come back to the committee

##### PL04-22:

The committee noted that while this is an experienced researcher the application does require some revision. The application can be approved subject to consideration of the below points.



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- A copy of the standard protocols should be submitted to the applicant for use in the application.
- Funding: there does not seem to be funding in place after August of this year, we need to clarify with the applicant how ongoing future work will be funded.
- In the main the application has no major issues however noted that some management issues with ageing animals have occurred in the past.
- Noted that there are many typographical errors throughout the application.
- NTS: clarify the terms "homologue" as this is not clear, other overly complex terms have been used.

### Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

A04-23 Applicant moving to [REDACTED] to take up new post, applying for additional availability at Oxford to facilitate movement of animal lines. Once animals are transferred and work here is complete we will transfer primary availability to [REDACTED]. Planned timescale is six months to a year.

A07-23 the applicant plans to produce GAAs at [REDACTED]

### Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

#### Approved:

A61-22, A63-22, A65-22, A72-22

## 5. Reports

### BVS Director update to the committee

#### Deputy Director Facilities (report)

- Vacancies: recruitment is ongoing for several grade 3 posts, using the University and recruitment companies.
- Modern apprentices: looking at mapping the qualifications that modern apprentices undertake [REDACTED]. For example [REDACTED] offer a degree for MAs which involves 4 days at work and then one at college which will lead to a degree qualification.
- Gender neutral changing rooms: these have been set up at LF.
- Training rooms: to be set up in facilities.
- IRR building: now to open in April, fumigation is ongoing at the moment.
- Death of [REDACTED] noted that she is a huge loss to the department and she will be very much missed.

#### NACWO report

- One resignation within the facility.



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- Recruitment of grade 3s: two new staff members in post, doing extremely well in post.
- Other staff returning from long term sick leave.
- Some autoclave issues: these are hoping to be resolved soon.
- IVIS machine: recently serviced and various components replaced and machine cleaned.
- Otherwise no issues and facility running well.

### ██████: NACWO

- Hoping to have adult fish by March, looking at sourcing animals currently.
- There are 25 juveniles on site, these are from previously caught fish, the site also has an aquaculture licence in place.

### NVS/3Rs update:

- NSG mice: one animal with diarrhoea has had to be culled, sent for pathology, remaining animals on ██████
- ██████ issues with certain routes of admin, ██████  
████████████████████ Condition 18 report submitted to the home office
- Rats: some ██████ issues in a rat study, the ██████ was used as described in mice but further investigation showed that published references detailed this discrepancy between species.
- Culture of Care events to continue in 2023 starting on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January with a half-day workshop on compassion fatigue lead by the University Chaplain.

### NTCO update

- No report tabled

### HOLC update

**Return of procedures** – about 70% submitted, more reminders given with offer of individual support. Two presentations to PPL holders about the returns, about 70 PPLh attended. The committee noted that the form on ASPeL for completing the Return of Procedure is much easier to fill in and more streamlined than in previous years.

**Licencing** –4 PPLs last month, 4 this month, 7 amendments currently being progressed.

**HOLTIF forum with ASRU in attendance.** Chief inspector informed the group about:

a) Recruitment of inspectors – they now have 16 in total, not all full time. They are recruiting for a further 3 inspectors.

b) ASRU have recruited regulatory support officers to help with initial triage of applications in an attempt to improve their processing of PPL applications.

### RI AWERB



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- Interviews for the Named Vet post: mid February.
- 2 PPL reviewed: one was a pig licence and the other was the aquaculture licence, both approved with minor revisions.

### 6. Overseas research

BVS published a webpage in December containing information on the criteria used when deciding whether overseas animal work requires AWERB review. The web form has been refined and reminders have been circulated.

Two applications for prospective work for rodent studies abroad, and one retrospective query that was referred to VERC (Veterinary Ethical Review Committee) which focuses on veterinary clinical research not covered by ASPA.

It was suggested that the VERC chair could present to AWERB in the future to help the committee understand the role of VERC.

### 7. A.O.C.B –

- Rehoming committee: volunteers have been asked to join the committee
- Agreed to have the PPL discussions first with specific reports to follow

**Date of next Meeting: February 28<sup>th</sup> 10am via MS teams**