



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 23/02/2021

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 23/02/2021

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending,

2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 26th January 2021: approved**

3. **Scientific presentation:** New PPL applicant - [REDACTED]

Discussion and questions:

- *Why are several models required to answer similar questions?:* most techniques will be carried out on non-recovery anaesthesia but additional models to confirm these findings will be required.
 - *Use of anaesthesia?:* some of the collection of data cannot be performed under a freely moving animal, therefore the use of anaesthesia will be required for certain types of analysis.
 - *How do you expose the anaesthetised animals to the odour of the mother?* This will be done using fans to expose the pups.
 - *Head fixation training:* this will not involve any food or water deprivation, treats are used as positive reinforcement
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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: Camarades group:** review of ERFs by scientist and group to determine publication of work involving animals: Action: email dissemination to researchers using animals. **complete**

5. **Named person and Director updates**

Directors update:

- **Risk meeting:** full paper will come to the AWERB when available, feedback very positive about facilities. Moving forward plans to focus on harm benefit assessment with the AWERB, openness and AWERB visibility and focus on severe procedures.
- **Training record/PIL use:** this will be considered at later date for discussion and review.
- **PETA:** issues with this have calmed down in relation to social media, responses by press office have been made to explain use of technique, noted that other universities are having similar issues.

Deputy Directors update:

- Air handling unit has been completed in [REDACTED] without issue.
- Some additional water leaks at the [REDACTED], however now under control.
- Some issues with recent power cuts over Edinburgh which have now been resolved.
- No other issues to report.



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NVS update

- Issues related to the vehicle administration in one study. Substances re-formulated and no further issues
- Paracetamol study: working with group to resolve some issues with potential formulation of drug infusion within study.
- **Habitat studies:** The home office have requested a very minor amendment to a PPL following an injury. Noted that over 200 study hours have already been carried out without any previous issues.
- **Parvovirus:** one positive identified in imports in a clean facility, re-screening has been carried out with no positives detected suggesting a contamination event.

NACWO update:

- **Reduced hours:** staff have now gone back to standard hours, all going well.
- **Deputy:** New deputy is now in place at [REDACTED] and this is working very well.
- **Vets:** visits will be increased but individual NVS catch ups have also been convened to discuss any issues.

NTCO update: no report tabled

6. Project licences under consideration:

PL01-2021: Approved subject to comments

The review committee felt that while the licence was scientifically valid and considered an important area of research some revisions are required. The committee were happy to approve the licence subject to the following points being addressed:

Summary:

- **Microchipping/tattooing:** concerns raised about the use of these techniques without anaesthesia specifically in younger animals. This does not seem to be the most refined approach. It was noted that some microchips are available which are considerably smaller and should be investigated.
- **Adverse effects:** Expected severities and the proportion of animals in each category section require revision in places. In some cases this is not specific for example “death from anaesthesia in and following surgery may occur more frequently”. This must be revised.
- **Holding of dams:** the holding of dams in an adjacent box for the use of fans to blow odours should be regulated; this does not seem to be mentioned in the application.
- **Wording within PPLs:** need to ensure that wording within similar PPLs is consistent within this application.
- **NTS:** consider appropriateness of some of the wording
- **Humane endpoints:** these are missing from some sections and in others prolonged time periods for monitoring are given which should be revised.

7. a. Amendment applications submitted to the full AWERB:

No amendments submitted

