



**The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body**

**Monday 26th April 2021**

2pm [REDACTED] 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 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

3. Matters arising/Action points

- *GA Large animal PPLs*: consider a discussion group to discuss the use of GA PPLs going forward. Update: [REDACTED] to oversee formalising a short guidance document for the use of the LA GA service licence.
- *PURE*: email circulated to all PPL holders informing them of the intention to link research outputs to PPL numbers. No concerns raised.
- *A07-21 [REDACTED] amendment*: response to comments circulated to the AWERB for consideration. It was agreed, following removal of the phenotyping, that the amendment could be submitted to the home office for consideration.

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

New Project licences

PL08-21: [REDACTED]

Amended Project licences

- A05-21 [REDACTED] (PPL transferred from [REDACTED])

## 5. Presentations:

**Summary of proposed potential new project licence amendment:** this will consider whether the use

It was noted that discussions with the HOI for (where the licence has primary availability) have not raised any initial concerns.

### **Summary of required actions:**

1. AWERB made aware of these new studies: completed 26/4/21
2. Discuss this possible study with our inspectors to gauge opinion, and clarify the requirement for an amendment. .
3. Noted that as the first study only plans to use 2 pigs, this would constitute a pilot study.
4. Background: the phenomenon of is documented and also published in the literature.
5. Isoflurane: regarding questions relating to the use of isoflurane and “safety” it was noted that while there are advantages with isoflurane no anaesthetic is completely safe.
6. to be made aware that the AWERB would advocate the addition of amended text to the PPL explaining that is being used for a different scientific purpose (rather than just ).
7. Noted that AWERB has a duty of diligent ethical appraisal of all proposed scientific studies involving animals, regardless of whether the original PPL is held at or elsewhere.

### **presentation:**

The project licence application also has additional availability at the , this has also been presented to their AWERB 20/4/2021.

### **Discussion points:**

1. **Adverse effects study (Sedation):** Noted that as pigs can be sedated for prolonged periods, consideration should instead be given to the use of light anaesthesia to improve recovery time, and minimize administration steps.
2. **Infectious diseases:** currently not planning to look at any other diseases at the moment, only work is planned currently.

## 6. Project licence applications under consideration

### **PL10-21:**

#### **Summary of review points:**

1. Some concerns with the inclusion of the work in ruminants. An amendment in the previous PPL covering such work was agreed last year at the start of the pandemic when the urgency of the situation, suggested there were clear potential benefits to expediting the proposed studies at the earliest opportunity. At the time the committee agreed that, in future, a separate licence to cover studies would be preferable.
2. **Funding:** clarify level of funding for all planned work.
3. **General structure:** The inclusion of the work makes the licence much more difficult to understand, this can also cause issues in relation to understanding and interpreting adverse effects.
4. **Numbers:** more justification for the increased numbers is required in the application.

**Summary:** approval subject to the proposed work being separated into a pig licence and a ruminant licence, with the latter focussing on work.

7. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB

A11-21 [REDACTED]

**Approved for submission: no changes required**

8. **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** the committee were reminded about the large animal research network (LARN) day.

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

## 10. NVS and NTCO update

NTCO update: a full report to be tabled at the next meeting with updates on PIL holders and training.

NVS update LA: [REDACTED] disease study completed last week, this was extremely successful.

NVS update poultry: no concerns, work progressing well.

11. PEL Holder update: [REDACTED] acknowledged the very good progress made by our current PEL holder [REDACTED].

## 12. Reports from Facilities

Farms & LARIF update ([REDACTED]):

- Lambing ongoing with [REDACTED] sheep
- [REDACTED] study on calves completed which was extremely successful, with substantial improvements in success rate.
- Other work is progressing with a number of other groups including [REDACTED].
- [REDACTED] cattle: work progressing well with these studies

Poultry ([REDACTED] and [REDACTED]):

- Advances in technology now allows the production of new lines quite easily. Noted that there are no adverse effects with these lines.
- New projects underway for a number of researchers.
- Stockperson: approval given to recruit a new member of staff.
- Health screens: these were completed last week.
- String: sourcing appropriate string for enrichment purposes.

Avian egg facility: no report.

Aquaculture facility updates:

Aquaculture at [REDACTED]:

1. [REDACTED]: importing [REDACTED] from Iceland this [REDACTED], which will be genetically modified and raised.
2. Sh [REDACTED] facility established in [REDACTED] registered with the Fisheries Health Inspectorate, Marine Scotland.

3. Oyster work: facility established in [REDACTED] and registered with the Fisheries Health Inspectorate, Marine Scotland.

**13.** A.O.C.B: Animal rights activity: noted that there was some animal rights activity over the weekend, no protests occurred but social media was used to distribute information by activists. The committee were also updated on the campaign by PETA surrounding the forced swim test (FST)

**14.** Date of next meeting: May 24<sup>th</sup> 2pm, Microsoft Teams.