



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 22/03/2022

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 22/03/2022

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Also welcomed a new member to the committee.
Apologies – **separate attendance log**
 2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 22/02/2022: approved**
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Named person and Director updates

3. **PELh update:**
 - The PELh described the current concerns relating to changes in ASRU function since July 21. Lack of scientific competitiveness and implications for animal welfare have resulted in submission of a letter to government from relevant sector bodies requesting a meeting to discuss.
4. **Directors update**
 - A member of the NVS team will be leaving in May 2022; we will be sad to lose her and would like to thank her for doing a tremendous job with poultry and rodents in particular. Recruitment has started.
 - [REDACTED] Estate management is at an active stage and in preparation for movement of [REDACTED] moving to [REDACTED] Looking at best options to ensure ongoing research and maintain biosecurity/health status.
5. **Deputy Director (Facilities) update:**
 - **Covid:** Significant absences but facilities have functioned well in spite of this.
 - **Recruitment:** multiple recruitments underway including Modern Apprentices. Connected with local schools for recruitment possibilities and using temporary agency staff where needed during recruitment period.
 - **IAT Congress:** Takes place 29 March – 1 April – 13 staff attending, good for 3Rs.
 - **Annual Reviews:** Currently underway and are tied in with our CARE values and Culture of Care. New starts we will implement online training/inductions.
6. **NVS update**
 - **Rats:** Noted issues with commercially sourced rats positive for a novel virus. Testing ongoing.
 - **SCRM** Ongoing issues with immunocompromised mice and sporadic diarrhoea. Investigations ongoing with support from health screening provider.
 - **Condition 18s:** The NVS presented recent cndtn 18 reports to the committee. NVS to promote usage of flexible gavage needles including training and retraining and promoted as our preferred method.



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7. NACWO update:

- **Staff:** Some staff changes owing to resignations, recruitment underway. Cage numbers increasing with increased requirement for assessments.
- [REDACTED] Breeding quite happily, had litters and further breeding set up.
- **Facilities:** Site is main location for receiving imports; health status checked and moved on to other units.
- **3Rs:** one user trying tamoxifen diet as a possible refinement to gavage.

8. NTCO update:

- **PIL Courses:** Busy month for PIL courses, 66 attendees, half from external establishments; some academic providers have stopped their courses. Zebrafish course being held 22/03/2022 and large animal 23/03/2022. Summary document produced which describes process of getting a Personal Licence

9. HOLC update to the committee

- **New Staff:** Welcome to new staff member DHOLC and will be a great asset to the department.
- **Licensing:** Currently awaiting approval for 18 licences, which is which is more than normal, managing this backlog requires more communication with ASRU. Noted that we cannot guarantee that any late licence applications that they will be in place when required. This is a huge process from start to finish but lack of flexibility is an issue.

10. [REDACTED]: To ensure there is a close contact between both AWERBS as requested by Home Office during audit, there will be a standing item on the agenda to share information from the [REDACTED] AWERB. Currently reviewing a reasonable number of new PPLs.

11. (a) Project licences under consideration:

PL04-22 (Re-submission):

Some progress has been made but application not quite there yet. Clarity required regarding humane end points and monitoring. NVS happy to go through document with applicant and give guidance as this is now time limited. Once everything has been done no need to bring back to AWERB. NVS will feedback.

PL10-22:

This PPL renew focuses on understanding the role of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] It was noted that the application was very well written with only a few minor comments, as detailed below. It was agreed that the application could be submitted once final revisions are made.

- Clarify if additional availability is required.



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- Protocol 2: experimental design section is blank.
- Protocol 4: clarify weight loss in relation to humane endpoints as these appear to differ within the protocol.
- Protocols general: wound dehiscence repair must be within 48hours.
- NTS: some spelling errors throughout and some overly complex terms.

PL11-22:

A well-qualified applicant with lots of experience has submitted this application. The aims of the project are to examine the [REDACTED]. NACWO happy with the application and the work to be carried out. Overall a straightforward application, no significant concerns, questions would need to be answered prior to submission. This is a new application and therefore will not be prioritised, not aware of any specific timescales. This information to be fed back to applicant.

The main points for consideration with this application are detailed below:

- Third Ray species to be identified
- Adult and Juvenile impacts could vary due to stage – clarification of what they are trying to do.
- Protocols: clarify blood sampling volume (protocol 2) and in protocol 1 the addition of paragraph in relation to re-use is required. .
- Greater clarification required over numbers and physiological results
- Husbandry techniques – will appropriate sex ratios be maintained – useful to understand prior to project starting

Clarify if anaesthesia will be used during procedures

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved: A03-22 [REDACTED] A04-22 [REDACTED] A05-22 [REDACTED] A08-22 [REDACTED]

12. Retrospective Review:

RR01-22:

This is a new licence continuing important work, well written, noted the aims achieved. One of the better retrospective reviews we have had. The committee were happy for this to be submitted to the HO. Agreed that this would be a useful document to send to PPL holders as an example of good practice.

13. AWERB review form: demonstration

A demonstration of a new online AWERB review form was given, with some revisions



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required. Suggested that a word document, which can be seen and edited by everyone at the same time, may be better. Form will be reviewed, and revisions made before moving to the next stage in a very long process.

14. [REDACTED] teaching use: All

This was reviewed and it was agreed that a detailed report produced 5 years ago should be revisited ([REDACTED]). The committee agreed that updated justification is required in the form of a written document. In addition, use of animals in teaching to be fully reviewed and justifiable.

15. A.O.C.B:

[REDACTED] A question and answer session regarding the changes in ASRU is being carried out at IAT Congress 2022, any questions can be sent onto [REDACTED] and he will feedback at next meeting.

Date of next Meeting: 26/04/2022 10am MS teams