



The Roslin Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday April 24th 2023 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 27th February

3. Matters arising/Action points

No specific matters arising raised.

4. Named Persons Update:

5. NVS update:

- **LA:** [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Noting that a primary objective was to determine if these animals would develop further *ex-vivo* analysis will be carried out to analyse the specific neurobiology of these animals. In a further unrelated study issues arose with a sedation protocol and repeated doses were required. It was noted that the animal recovered well. Discussions with the team are ongoing to assess the anaesthesia protocol in light of this occurrence.

6. NTCO update:

- attended the home office accreditation meeting to discuss standardisation of training throughout UK establishments.

7. PEL Holder update:

- Circulated information in relation to a recent compliance check of the animals in science statistics (return of procedure collation) by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR).
- Working with colleagues to look at ways of improving data returns via [REDACTED]
- PEL holders forum on Friday 28th April

8. BVS Director update:

- Looking at training for AWERB members to formalise this process
- Facility forum newsletter about activities in BVS will be produced.
- Discussions ongoing in relation to use of [REDACTED] the preparation of returns.
- Planned visit to the Roslin Facilities.
- Meeting with [REDACTED]

9. Edinburgh AWERB report:

- Delivered a joint presentation in March to PPL holders to assist with the preparation of their returns going forward.
- Edinburgh AWERB: the recent months have been particularly busy with 40 amendments and 20 PPLs completed to date.

10. Reports from Facilities

- **Farms, [REDACTED]:** [REDACTED] is very busy with [REDACTED] studies are ongoing, with [REDACTED] ongoing with assessment of [REDACTED]. Current shortages with black and white bull calves has driven selection of Aberdeen Angus calves as an alternative. That black and white bull calves are less likely to be culled as a consequence of poor production potential is a welcome improvement in the dairy industry. [REDACTED] studies also ongoing. The [REDACTED] studies have proven successful with a model developed and funding in place.

Staffing: looking at appointing new members of staff specifically in relation to anaesthesia assistance.

Enrichment: current enrichment practices for cattle and pigs are currently being reviewed.

- **Poultry [REDACTED]**

[REDACTED]: health screens are currently indicating no specific issues of note. Present focus is on cryopreservation to preserve lines, and thereby reduce unnecessary breeding.

- **Chick embryo room [REDACTED]:** no issues raised.
- **Aquaculture Facility [REDACTED]**

As no animals are currently held in the facility building improvement works are being implemented.
Staffing: 2 members of staff are absent (one resignation and one LTS).

11. **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:**

- Individuals at all levels play crucial roles in caring for our research animals
- It is recognized that opportunities to explore new ways of optimizing enrichment protocols for our animals in a way that complements and builds on existing husbandry practice should be explored.
- Towards this end the input of individuals with direct or indirect experience or specific interest in this initiative will be sought to explore the possibilities, and feed-back relevant progress to the AWERB.
- The possibility of seeking researcher feedback following the use of the [REDACTED] was discussed. Whilst excellent informal feedback has been received previously, formalizing the collection of feedback would indicate that improving on current practice is a perpetual consideration.

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

PL10-23 [REDACTED]

13. **Project Licence amendments *submitted*** to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

14. **Presentations:**

PPL renewal: [REDACTED] renewal application Presentation: [REDACTED]

PPL amendment: [REDACTED] amendment application

15. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB

PL16-23 [REDACTED] Approved for submission to the home office: no further comments

16. PPL amendments:

A38-23 [REDACTED]: For this amendment, focused on [REDACTED] to investigate mechanisms and control of atrial fibrillation, the committee were happy to approve subject to revision taking into account reviewer comments. Following assessment by sub-committee this amendment can be submitted to the home office.

Questions/Discussion:

1. Numbers: there was a large increase in numbers which the AWERB requested information and justification for. There was some discussion about whether this would warrant a new PPL however the PPL holder felt that it was appropriate to keep this under the current PPL.
2. Objectives: clarify whether the current objectives would cover this work as this seems to be expanded further than a pilot study.
3. Noted that this proposed work also relates to a currently granted amendment which will focus on the [REDACTED]. The researcher who is collaborating with the PPL holder plans to continue work within [REDACTED].
4. Clarity required on whether there are plans for a bigger project?

17. Presentation: Nested refinement studies:

The committee heard a thought-provoking presentation aimed at raising awareness of whether the incorporation of “nested refinement studies” (NRS) could become a more routine consideration in planning experimental protocols conducted under Home Office approval.

An NRS, defined as clinical veterinary research conducted on animals otherwise protected under ASPA, would focus on refining technique towards best practice – with resultant animal welfare and scientific benefits.

However, currently the opportunities to improve on clinical practice can founder within the constraints of hypothesis-led experimental protocols that seek consistency in order to reduce variability.

Discussion points

The slides from the presentation to be circulated.

The AWERB were encouraged to give thought to the proposal, and in particular how a mechanism could be constructed that would enable implementation whilst addressing questions that may arise from PIs, funders – particularly in relation to contract research, and all those involved in the culture of care.

18. Date of next meeting: June 26th 2pm [REDACTED] Hybrid option via MS teams