



The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 22nd June 2020

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 25/5/2020

3. Matters arising/Action points

- *Action:* [REDACTED] / *AWERB:* presentation to AWERB by [REDACTED]: *Action* awaiting confirmation of presentation at suitable meeting.
- *Action:* *AWERB:* preparation of a poster emphasising the role of the AWERB (for example at open days): *Action* [REDACTED] to discuss with [REDACTED]: agenda point added for 27/8/2020

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

New Project licences

- none

Amended Project licences

- none

5. Presentation to the AWERB

New proposal submitted by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to study [REDACTED] proposal as follows:

- Justification of species: Rat models do not demonstrate the same clinical features as humans hence the requirement to use larger animals. As the difference may relate to brain size pigs are deemed more appropriate models.
- Why have sheep not been included as a possible model? Larger litter sizes will drive greater efficiency and allow for an overall reduction in animal numbers in the first instance. The use of sheep may be considered in the future.

- Monitoring regimes and frequency: this is yet to be established and may be partly via video monitoring at certain time points. The use of collars which can collect motion data may also be explored.
- MRI scanning: this has been done at resting state in rats and may be extended to pigs if possible.
- Welfare: The main priority is to establish if the clinical phenotype will occur in pigs with this mutation. It is noted that should the clinical phenotype significantly affect the performance of normal functions and behaviours the animals will be culled.
- NTS: as this is a very novel approach the non-technical summary should be updated to add the new science behind this work.
- Recording devices: some work on the transponders for monitoring purposes may be required before these can be used.

6. PPL amendment review:

- **A22-20 [REDACTED] amendment**: further discussion put forward to August 2020 meeting.
- **A34-20 [REDACTED]**: **approved** pending completion of sub-committee review and circulation to the AWERB, comments circulated to the AWERB 3/6/20.

7. **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care**: consider the production of a poster showing the effectiveness of paracetamol on pecking issues in birds and its effectiveness.

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

9. NVS and NTCO update

NTCO update:

- No training or assessments currently being carried out, due to Covid restrictions. Training will resume when government guidance is revised and is permitted.

NVS update:

- [REDACTED]: all working well, no issues presently.
- Large animal facilities: currently working on plans for return to research. No veterinary issues currently, 2 [REDACTED] lambs required veterinary assessment. If necessary the large animal practice can be consulted.
- Home office inspection: this went well and covered our current ways of working in relation to adapting to the Covid 19 pandemic.

10. PEL Holder update:

Remote inspection/training event carried out by the home office on the 18th June. This was to introduce new inspectors who have currently joined the home office.

AWERB Hub meeting: this has been organised for the 24th June via Zoom

11. Reports from Facilities

Farms () – LARIF update () :

- Minimal experimental studies ongoing, no work currently at
- Planning stage for return to work in progress, some cattle work may be planned for some calves and other researchers have plans in progress.
- : hoping for contractor to re-commence work shortly at the , plans then to add to the PEL for designation.
- Working on plans for return to work with safe social distancing in place.
- Main priority is to ensure staff safety and to protect staff.

Poultry ()

- Currently no research studies in place, work at present is maintenance of existing lines and general husbandry.
- Looking at positive welfare enhancements within and the possible implementation of a new 3Rs poultry committee.
- Chick Embryo room – () No updates to report, all studies are currently on hold. Hoping to restart work within the next few weeks.
- Aquaculture Facility – still to apply to to commence disease work, currently on hold. Currently maintaining facilities prior to re-commencing work of the facilities which will commence once plans are finalized. Final additions to the plan will be completed as soon as possible.

12. A.O.B: academic liaison: a brief update to this role was delivered by the academic liaison for the Avian facility. It was suggested that another committee could be convened to consider poultry 3Rs which would allow more time than is available in the AWERB in a similar way to the Edinburgh AWERB.

Summary: The committee will discuss if this is a suitable way forward for this group and will decide if a separate committee is required. At present this is still under discussion; options include regular reporting back to AWERB from representatives which would avoid the need for a separate committee

13. Date of next meeting: 27th August 2pm, Microsoft Teams.