



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

Monday 25th May 2021

2pm [REDACTED] Microsoft teams

Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies.

Apologies
[REDACTED]

Also in attendance: the AWERB was attended by a final year vet student keen to gain further experience in the area of research animals.

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on the 26th April 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. **Action pending**
- *NTS:* have requested that the lay member will have an earlier input into the PPL applications which should be beneficial, this will be at the point of NVS/AWERB review. **Action [REDACTED] to implement**
- *PPL application PL10-21 ([REDACTED]):* relevant changes completed as requested and approved by both the [REDACTED] AWERB. **Action complete**

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

New Project licences

PL07-21: [REDACTED]

Amended Project licences

- A07-21 [REDACTED]

- A10-21 [REDACTED]
- A11-21 [REDACTED]

5. Presentations:

[REDACTED] cattle amendment:

Techniques will involve evaluating animals with alterations in the [REDACTED] receptor to assess their response to thermal stress; noted that thermal chambers will be used and the only other procedure will be biopsy. The other aspect of the amendment will be to produce founders, which will not be subject to thermal stress.

Questions: What will the biopsy address? Currently the phenotype is not fully understood, the only observable difference is shorter hair in terms of phenotype. The biopsy will aid assessment of the skin microvasculature in the skin and evaluation of hair density.

6. **Project licence applications under consideration**

None

7. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB

A24-21 [REDACTED]

Approved for submission: minor comments detailed below

- Noted that sheep will be used as controls in these studies.
- **Donor numbers** are high however this has been previously discussed with the HO. The committee suggest that further justification on the donor numbers is added to the amendment.
- **Heterozygotes:** explain more clearly why homozygote animals are required if heterozygotes can be used in these studies.
- **In-vitro work:** Consider the use of *in-vitro* work prior to *in-vivo* work. Noted that this is already carried out to ensure blastocyst quality before *in-vivo* work is carried out.

Presentation [REDACTED]: The NTCO summarised progress with managing and recording training for personal licence holders. Notably, this included discussion in relation to managing those licences not used within a 5 year period. In addition, the presentation focused on how to manage situations where licence holders do not hold training records or have species on their licence which are no longer being used at the University.

Discussion points:

- Noted that for early career researchers, holding a PIL can be important particularly when those individuals may change post-doctoral positions regularly.
- **Species:** originally PIL modules covered all large animals and therefore many people may have species such as goat which were covered in the original module and therefore added to the modular certificates.
- **Record of procedures:** although this is noted within the training record often people may not keep a record of procedures. It should be emphasised that this is a condition of holding a personal licence.
- A finalised policy document will be circulated to both AWERBs when available.

8. **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** noted that the LARN would be held on the 25/5/21 and there was still time to register. Details of the annual BVS 3Rs symposium and request for abstracts have been circulated to researchers with a request for abstracts to be submitted by 31/5/21

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 Poultry:

- Low incidence of pecking within facilities
- No further welfare concerns noted

NVS LA:

- [REDACTED] has now been added to the PEL, some studies have commenced. It is anticipated that the [REDACTED] will be formally handed over by estates on the 31st May
- Still some minor works at the [REDACTED] but no impact on studies.
- Calf pneumonia: two instances identified in bought-in calves were treated during the study and have recovered, with one animal subsequently being excluded from the study.

11. PEL Holder update: the PEL holder plans to visit the poultry facilities at some point in June, details for this visit will be finalised shortly.

12. Reports from Facilities

Farms & [REDACTED] update ([REDACTED])

[REDACTED] Report

- The [REDACTED] Building has been added to the PEL.
- Cadavers used for surgical and imaging studies.
- Staff – good response to the advertised post for a Junior Research Assistant, interviews will take place on the 4th June.
- [REDACTED] Filming – [REDACTED] plan to produce a marketing video of [REDACTED]. A short 2 minute film will appear on their website for members and an extended 5 minute version will be used when marketing the facility to [REDACTED] members.
- [REDACTED] sheds: work with estates is ongoing for the construction of sheds adjacent to the [REDACTED], work should commence March 2022.
- [REDACTED] – A number of ongoing studies. It was noted that milk samples have been supplied to a commercial company (approved by VERC).
- [REDACTED]: a number of studies ongoing including a [REDACTED] study and genotyping of [REDACTED] lambs.

Poultry ([REDACTED]):

- Plans are in place to add an additional NACWO for the poultry facility, the relevant individual will be required to complete a NACWO course.
- New Poultry project licences are now in place and the amount of work required for the preparation of these licences was recognised by the AWERB.

Avian egg facility:

- No current work using regulated procedures.

Aquaculture facility updates:

- One NACWO is leaving to take up a new position
- No other concerns, work is progressing well.

13. A.O.C.B:

14. Date of next meeting: June 21st 2pm, Microsoft Teams.