



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 26/04/2022

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 26/04/2022

Microsoft Teams

1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending. Apologies – **separate attendance log**
 2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 22/03/2022: approved**
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Named person and Director updates

3. **Directors update**

- Working on annual returns data, total returns increased from last year, still down on pre Covid numbers.
- Two Roadshows are planned and will be held at the end of May/beginning of June. Focus will be on the 4th “R”.
- Interviews to be held for replacement NVS post.

4. **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.

5. **NVS update**

- **3Rs:** Online talks available, everyone encouraged to watch.
- **Anaesthetic:** Now have availability of long acting local anaesthetic for trialling.
- **Condition 18s:** The NVS updated on recent condition 18 reports. This included information about implementation of plastic gavage needles as standard. Health Issues – x2 changes in health status in rats were discussed, one currently being investigated in detail.
- Following concerns in relation to commercial suppliers (USA), the University will audit their rodent suppliers. The first visit took place last week with future visits to follow.

6. **NACWO update:**

- **Staff:** Post of MA important to department, start with basics working their way up, attend college 1 day per week. The department have turned around very good technicians and this has worked out well for us.

7. **NTCO update:**

- **PIL Courses:** 70% of those who attended the March course had fully completed by the April AWERB (theory and handling).



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- **MA:** new website content to explain how this post works
 - **NVS Documents:** These have been moved from website to SharePoint, webpage updated with links to SharePoint.
- 8. HOLC update to the committee**
- **ASRU:** The HOLC described ongoing challenges and concerns relating to the current functioning of Home Office processes and administration. PEL holder confirmed that funding bodies aware
- 9. [REDACTED] AWERB:** The NVS summarised the most recent [REDACTED] AWERB meeting and the Project Licences that were discussed.
- 10. (a) Project licences under consideration:**

PL13-22 :

This PPL renew focuses on understanding [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 with modifications and amendments suggested.

- 1st sentence to be amended
- Clarify pre diabetes – symptoms not known.
- NTS: some elements copied and pasted.
- Funding levels and funding bodies need to be clarified and added to the relevant section.
- Protocols: in general humane endpoints need to be made clearer, in some cases severity appears to be severe which requires clarification.
- Breeding protocols: the applicant should check and use the standard breeding and maintenance protocols for Zebrafish as supplied.
- Reduction section: the estimated numbers has not been completed and clarification on how numbers will be reduced should be added.

PL14-22:

This PPL renew focuses on understanding how [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] will help design strategies that might be able to prevent these errors. It was noted that the application was well written and could be submitted pending revision of the below very minor comments.

- There are only details of core funding can the applicant clarify if this is this sufficient?
- Action plan: is a flow diagram required in this section?
- The applicant should remove any reference to [REDACTED] and replace with [REDACTED]

PL15-22:



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A well-qualified applicant with lots of experience with this work has submitted this application and was very well written with detailed information. The aims of the project are to understand how

[REDACTED]. Overall a straightforward application, no significant concerns that the application could be submitted Pending revision of the changes detailed below

- some minor typing errors were noted which should be rectified before submission
- There is one reference to "veterinary scientific services" in protocol 2, step 1 this should be amended to Bioresearch and Veterinary Services.
- Protocol 2 - suggest the section on "suitability of substances" is revised to say "sterility is ensured through good sterile laboratory practice"

PL18-22:

This is a new application but continuation of work, which is already very well established. The applicant has a lot of experience and has established/refined many of the techniques in the application. And is a fairly straightforward application. The aim of this project is to understand the cellular and molecular mechanisms by which

[REDACTED]. Feedback required from H.O. and a collated response prior to asking how this will be reviewed.

Modification and amendments suggested include:

- Peer Review section blank
- Wording issues to be corrected
Make it clear that animals will be culled before breaching severity.
Some Protocol steps may benefit from being split into multiple separate steps

(b) Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

[REDACTED] A09-22

New protocol 14 –, new funding, no issues with the revision, main comment is in relation to– analgesia, the PPL holder will take vet advice as to what can be used,– If these comments are addressed the committee was happy to offer approval

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved: A11-22 [REDACTED], A14-22 [REDACTED], A16-22 [REDACTED], A17-22 [REDACTED], A20-22 [REDACTED], A21-22 [REDACTED], A22-22 ([REDACTED], A26-22 [REDACTED].

11. Publication on 'Animal Welfare Requirements in Publishing Guidelines'

12. Overseas research proposal OS4-22: [REDACTED]

An application for animal work abroad was discussed in detail. This is a study required for legislative purposes, testing a novel human therapeutic in non human primates in the USA. There was significant justification for this work as a potential treatment for a life limiting human genetic disease. Animal care and training processes were discussed and additional



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information requested. In principle the AWERB accepted the need for this work owing to the potential benefits, acknowledging the challenges of working under non-UK/european legislation and the limits therein.

13. **Nature article on public perception of animal research** [Openness about animal research increases public support | Nature Neuroscience](#): *(for information)*

14. **A.O.C.B:**

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: 24/05/2022 10am MS teams