



The [REDACTED] Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 25th April 2022 2pm
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 the 22nd March 2022

3. Matters arising/Action points

AWERB: a return to hybrid meetings are planned with future meetings proposed to be held in the [REDACTED] Boardroom

4. NVS update:

- [REDACTED] the home office were reassured following provision of a report detailing routine servicing and functional checks made on a ventilator which had previously failed during a study [REDACTED], prompting a SC18 [REDACTED] studies in calves were delayed by one week due to coccidial infection in the calves.
- [REDACTED] routine heath screen from [REDACTED] showed avian pneumovirus, 26/29 birds were positive with low titres. Consultation with [REDACTED] Poultry Team suggested that the pattern was inconsistent with a true challenge, and additional screening using PCR was negative suggesting false positive results.

5. **NTCO update:** this has been a relatively quiet month, due to holidays etc. Courses were all completed in March with 5 attending the LA course.

6. **PEL Holder update:** Updated guidance from the home office in relation to the use of a standard AWERB reporting template and standard condition 18s is still anticipated. This will be circulated when available..

7. Reports from Facilities

- **Farms** [REDACTED] fully staffed, a range of ongoing studies in progress.
- [REDACTED] Building works should be completed shortly. Drainage work is still ongoing, Lambing has started, some initial issues but now everything going well ([REDACTED] sheep). CT scanning studies are ongoing and will be complete next week. Outside calf shed is being well used with around 30 calves in-situ at the moment. Some surgical studies are ongoing for [REDACTED] and work for [REDACTED] is also ongoing. Pig work: delivery of 60 new breeding gilts at [REDACTED] with a number of studies ongoing. Noted that outdoor barn is very busy and is holding the [REDACTED] sheep and also a number of calves
- **Poultry** [REDACTED] APV positive titres in bumstead detected, further tracheal swabs taken for PCR today to confirm that there is no infection. There have been some issues with pecking in the [REDACTED] line, and adjustments have been made to the lighting to mitigate for this. Increased mortality in [REDACTED] birds, discussion ongoing with potential navel swabbing with iodine to prevent infection in the yolk sack.

Assessing incubation conditions for line 9 birds but this has not been found to be an issue. Success with hatching in other lines [REDACTED]

- **Chick Embryo room** – no report tabled .
- **Aquaculture Facility** - [REDACTED] has been created and this will currently be held within the facility at [REDACTED]. Ongoing issues at [REDACTED] mean salmon cannot be shipped to [REDACTED]. In seeking a resolution, other options including holding fish longer at [REDACTED] and collaborating with a facility in [REDACTED] for disease challenge, are being considered.
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** (see presentation [REDACTED])

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

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

PPL amendment [REDACTED]

10. **New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB**

PL16-22: [REDACTED]

The committee were happy to approve this application following a very detailed presentation from [REDACTED]

The main points of note are detailed below:

1. Inclusion of a monitoring scoring sheet is required for the application.
2. A refinement will be the addition of vascular ports.
3. NTS: The description of the role of the hormones and also certain terms such as “insulin resistance” were considered expert and would require revision to make it suitable for a lay audience. In addition, the description of the “habituation” of the animals was not explicit.

PL17-22: [REDACTED]

The committee were happy to approve this application subject to the consideration of the points as detailed below and in the collated review.

1. Removal of the [REDACTED] as an additional establishment, this will be added by way of an amendment
2. Monitoring sheet: some endpoints require revision before submission.
3. Noted that there is some repetition in the PPL but this is more an issue with the way the application is structured.
4. Severe protocol: noted that while there is a severe protocol, this work is tightly controlled, there were 4 severe animals returned last year which is consistent with the numbers detailed on the PPL

11. **Amendments:**

A02-22 [REDACTED]

This was approved for submission to the home office.

12. **Overseas research: OS3-22**

This application will look at a comparison of foodstuffs in specific breeds of chickens, including some diets which will include elements of a foraged diet. This was approved for submission

13. **PEL holder update:** no update presented.

14. [REDACTED] presentation of research undertaken by [REDACTED] on ‘Animal Welfare Requirements in Publishing Guidelines’ which has been accepted for publication in: *Laboratory Animals* (2022). The authors examined and quantified the emphasis placed on animal welfare, the 3Rs, ARRIVE guideline compliance and the levels of regulatory approval in the ‘Guidelines to authors’ of 54 journals from several countries reportedly accounting for the greatest laboratory animal use. Importantly, low emphasis placed on animal welfare

and related topics was widely recognized, and the national and journal-specific incidence should serve as a catalyst for journals to improve their diligence in this regard.

The committee congratulated the authors in their success, and particularly [REDACTED] as lead author – with the manuscript a testament to the knowledge, application and support that she has brought to the AWERB over many years.

15. Date of next meeting: 23rd May [REDACTED] Boardroom and hybrid 2pm