



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

Monday 21st June 2021

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 25th May 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 to all concerned - this will be at the point of NVS/AWERB review. *Action [REDACTED] to implement from August 2021*

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

New Project licences

none

Amended Project licences

- A24-21 [REDACTED]

5. **Changes to ASRU:**

Summary of discussion points and concerns are detailed below:

- **No individual inspectors:** advice will now be offered via an advisory group, all done in writing (currently no direct option for phone calls)

- **Licensing:** a “taxi rank” system for assigning to inspectors will be put in place for new PPLs and amendments, currently unclear as to how this will operate.
- **Amendments:** could be an issue if “taxi ranked” in the same way
- **Non-compliances:** history of non-compliance may mean establishments will go into special measures, currently unclear as to what this will involve.
- **Consultation and speed of changes:** Noted that these changes are not negotiable, decisions have already been made and implemented, the changes are sudden and will commence on the 5th July.
- **ASRU Information:** this should be available soon and will be sent out to all PIL/PPL holders, a meeting to discuss changes will also be arranged.

6. Presentations:

██████████: outlined initial thoughts on a new proposed project looking at developing a translation-relevant large animal model for ██████████ research.

7. Project licence applications under consideration

None

8. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB

- none

9. Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:

- **3Rs seminar:** reminders circulated about upcoming event on 24/6/21
- **██████████ trial:** a refinement using central cannulation has been trialed which has been very effective, noted this is an important refinement and will also reduce procedure time.
- **Welfare enhancements:** more input into the standards of care, with immune system knockout lines, this will involve frequent weighing, different bedding (irradiated materials)/nesting etc. This refinement will minimise the risk of infection.
- **Vet students on placement:** presentation given to medical and veterinary students to make them aware of the role of NVS, tours of the facilities were also offered. Information on this initiative will be collated and presented to the committee at a later date.
- **RSPCA survey** has been circulated for comment

10. Statistics and experimental design: no report tabled

11. NVS update

NVS Poultry:

██████████: health screens ongoing

NVS LA:

- Condition 18: a condition 18 report has been submitted following an unexpected adverse effect in a study in pigs. Useful data was still obtained and informed refinement for subsequent animals . No further adverse effects have occurred.
- studies (): Noted that the () has worked well. Mortality in one pig (unrelated to the procedure) occurred prior to study completion. Further contact with the sponsors will be established to identify forward strategy.
- cattle: some issues with this line including one abortion in a heifer, one re-absorption of an embryo and one expelled foetus. Another heifer delivered twins - with one stillborn. The live calf was subsequently euthanised following a respiratory infection. Noted that one remaining pregnant heifer is due to calve imminently.

12. 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.

13. Reports from Facilities

Farms & () update ():

() Report

- The () Building has been added to the PEL, studies are progressing well.
- A new junior research assistant has been appointed and commenced work.
- () work: some more clarity is required on any adverse effects, particularly as work is now planned in sheep.
- Animals: the first set of animals (sheep) have now moved into the facility, noted that the facility is very busy into the new year.
- Cattle studies: costings have been drawn up for a large cattle study (24 cattle) is planned for the summer.

Poultry ():

- PEL holder will visit the poultry facilities on the 30th July.

Avian egg facility:

- No report tabled.

Aquaculture facility updates:

- No report tabled

14. A.O.C.B:

15. Date of next meeting: August 23rd 2pm, Microsoft Teams.