



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 30/05/2023

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 30/05/2023

Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome, apologies for absence (see separate attendance log) and minutes of meeting on 1st May 2023 approved.

2. Matters arising

3a. PPL applications considered by the committee

PL 18-23

This is a scientifically justified PPL. The application can be approved subject to revision of the detailed points below:

- **Funding** more details required, at least for the next 1-2 years.
- **Protocols** severe protocol requires revision, answers must be full and appropriate to the question. Animal numbers require clarification. There may be a missing imaging step. Monitoring and humane endpoints need more detail. Reference to an appendix should be removed and the information added to relevant protocols. SC route should be included in protocols as more refined than IP.
- **Typographical errors** More consistency required when referring to the establishment guidelines, entire document needs checking for typographical errors
- **Non schedule 1 methods** need justification and clarification
- **Non technical summary** is clear and concise however severities and monitoring frequencies given here must match up with those described in adverse effects sections

PL 20-23

This is a short and generally well-written application from a new researcher at the university. The committee is happy to approve subject to revision of the following points:

- **Protocols** require some extra information in justification sections, minipumps are mentioned but not included within the protocol steps.
- [REDACTED] failure rate should be detailed in the licence
- [REDACTED] applicant should consider use of citric acid as a refinement in this procedure.
- **Funding** further details required
- **Non technical summary** needs expanding, addition of detail and explanation of technical terms

3b. Amendments – for consideration by full committee:



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- **PPL transfer: A40-23** Previous licence holder is leaving the establishment, new PPLh is very experienced, there are no concerns here. Committee approves the transfer

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee:

Approved:

A28-23, A31-23, A32-23, A33-23, A39-23

Updates to the AWERB:

4. **BVS director update to the committee**

- Meetings held with department of Social Responsibility and Sustainability: Looking into air control units that can control relative humidity at the cage level, steam efficiency, [REDACTED], behavioural change to help and encourage more recycling, and an alternative life cycle for dirty bedding such as using it to produce energy.
- There have been discussions about [REDACTED], and an embryo rederivation program which is currently awaiting budget approval.
- The yearly roadshows had a ~350 total attendance, recordings will soon be available for people who couldn't make them live.
- [REDACTED] talking about workflow and new exploratory avenues for behavioural work in the new facility. Talking to buildings and estates about wall and ceiling finishes so we can sterilise by hydrogen peroxide vapour.
- All fish users have been emailed to set up a refresher for how to set up baffles and tanks before end of June.

5. **BVS Deputy director update to the committee**

- [REDACTED] was fumigated last week. Manager to send out email to all potential users to offer an induction tour.
- June facility forums have been cancelled as newsletters were sent out recently, however technical issues affected distribution, and they will be sent out properly soon. Next facility forums will be in the Autumn, currently rethinking the format to improve attendance.
- Mental health awareness week is 21st June. Chaplaincy is doing a workshop on Impact without Burnout, will be bookable through Events.
- Schedule 1 kills and their impact on technicians – issue raised by technicians and by congress this year

6. **NVS update to the committee**

- There were several SC18s this month, all related to single animals, appropriate actions were taken in all cases.
- [REDACTED] –practices and procedures in the facility are currently being examined. An email will go out to users to ask them to discuss plans with NVS
- 3Rs/CoC meeting report:
 - The committee is organising a trial session of 'Careful stories' on 31st August. This will involve PILh and technicians who have been in post a year or less.
 - Rehoming is proceeding well, with four rats rehomed last week.



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- Focus this year is on Replacement – the committee is planning some replacement focused questionnaires to understand barriers to replacement and what replacements there are at the university. Meeting in November.
- There will be a seminar on pain in December and a large animal enrichment seminar in November. The committee were encouraged if attending conferences to look for good examples of Replacements

7. NACWO update to the committee

- [REDACTED] which will cause noise, vibrations and dust. [REDACTED] should help to minimise the impact of this. A meeting with users to update them is scheduled.

8. NTCO update to the committee

- As part of concordat on openness, mice research week was 9-12th May. Shared some videos on Instagram and a researcher spoke about their PhD project. UAR shared the posts, hopefully there will be more opportunities like this in the future. If anyone on AWERB would like to be involved do get in contact.
- PIL course 41 people registered. 5 to do the new fish course

9. HOLC update to the committee

- ASRU HOLTIF meeting last week, in which concerns were raised over the Home Office lack of response to SC18 reports. This is a UK-wide issue, due to absences of Home Office staff. The lack of communication from ASRU over this matter was concerning to all.
- Potential non compliances, responses from ASRU take 4-5 months. BVS has good internal governance so can and does respond as situations arise.
- Reform of ASRU change program has been paused. No progress to report with that.

10. BVS Deputy Director (Vets/home office) Roslin AWERB report

- No Roslin AWERB this month, but there is an upcoming report on one of the most intensive large animal studies in LARIF we've had so far, a good example of where the work is going in terms of analgesia and post surgical protocols. Potentially the speaker could also come to Central AWERB to present their findings to the committee.
- New NVS to join the team once their visa is in place

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11. Retrospective review: reference [REDACTED]

Good in general, needs a little more detail in some areas (replacements, refinements, welfare implications)

12. Overseas research proposal: OS5-23

The committee raised concerns with the application in the current form which may not be approved even if all the information requested below is provided. The committee recognised that the work only involves analysing videos (the actual experiment having been performed already) however there are major concerns about experimental design and welfare of the animals involved, as well as reputational



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risk to the University. Reassurance and evidence on all of those points is required, as well as details of the review process in the local institution.

Action: [REDACTED] to meet with supervisors to discuss concerns.

13. A.O.C.B

[REDACTED]

Action: [REDACTED]

Date of next meeting:

27th June 2023, [REDACTED]