

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 25/6/19 and 1/8/19 combined

1. Welcome The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
2. Attendance and Apologies– please see separate sheet
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 28/5/19: Approved
4. Scientific presentation: the committee heard an interesting presentation on modelling of fat tissue types in specific genetic conditions.

5. Matters arising and action point summary

- Local action on non-compliance and animal welfare: Committee membership has been put together, a preliminary meeting is proposed for Autumn 2019.
Action: ongoing: meeting date to be confirmed action
- Review of licences: consider review of specific moderate/severe techniques used on university PPLs to ensure justification and consideration of refinements or alternative approaches Action: identify techniques- ?vets? and timetable into AWERB programme action
- Behaviour tests: consider setting up an event to discuss with researchers the range of behavioural tests used at the University and the benefits/alternatives:
Action: consider a suitable date/format of event action
- Openness award: suggest the implementation of an award for openness at the annual 3Rs day, this was well received, this would be a nomination based approach.
Action: discussion point for 3Rs committee for feedback to AWERB
- Zebrafish: new guidelines have been produced which state that fish can only be maintained until 18 months. This may impact some users and requires discussion.
Action: discussion point for August AWERB meeting action

6. Named person update

NVS update: issues discussed

- 7th symposium: this was very well attended (~100 delegates) with presentations covering a range of topics including pain/aquatics/replacements.
- meeting: this was well attended (~ 50 delegates) covering a range of topics including updates on the ARRIVE and PREPARE guidelines.

NACWO update :

- No major issues to report
- Some staff movement of technicians into new posts due to resignations/retirals.

NTCO update: issues discussed

- June course ran very successfully using new presentations which went well. courses are currently undergoing re-accreditation.

7. Consideration of Project licence applications and amendments

PL14-19 This project licence is from an experienced group leader and involves a number of research aims to understand brain circuitry in relation to a number of conditions. The licence was approved subject to revision of the points detailed below and it was noted that this was a very well written application:

- **Protocols section:** a number of protocols only have optional steps, consider revising protocols to include fixed steps, if necessary additional protocols may be required.
- **Protocols section:** clarify the typical and maximal severity on each protocol.
- **Species:** Possibility to add rats to specific protocols, need more discussion on this. Might be easier to add this as an amendment at a later stage.
- Monitoring conditions for food and water studies are unclear as are details of adverse effects which require clarification.
- Provide details of the number of animals required for development of imaging techniques.
- Protocol 2 is currently mild but there are a number of techniques which suggest severity is moderate, this requires clarification.
- **Breeding and maintenance:** consider adding a moderate protocol to include any strains with adverse phenotype.
- **Non technical summary:** names are detailed which should be removed and more lay information on some aspects is required for example Rett's syndrome.

PL16-19

This is a new licence application from an experienced researcher who is looking at the impact of genes on adipose tissue function, the applicant currently holds a project licence at another establishment. The committee were happy to approve this application subject to addressing the following points:

- **Plan of work:** this is too long with significant repetition and should be edited to be more concise.
- **Pilot studies:** the use of these should be detailed in the refinement section.
- More detail of cold analysis studies are required, specifically the timescales and housing requirements for these studies.
- More detailed explanation of the requirements for metabolic and indirect calorimetry cages is required in the application.
- **NTS:** generally well written, some more detail of what animals will experience is required
- **Humane endpoints:** more detail is required with specific reference to weight loss and monitoring.
- **GA animals:** revise details of monitoring for adverse effects and humane endpoints.

PL17-19

This is a new licence application from an experienced researcher with a strong track record in the field. The committee were happy to approve this application subject to addressing the following points:

- Protocols section: include typical and maximal experience within relevant protocols.
- Funding: clarify how well supported this application is, there was only limited information included.
- NTS: Remove reference to “sacrifice” in the NTS and replace with killed.
- Summary: well written application, minor revisions required.
- LPS: check that the use of LPS is still required and justified within this application, if not this should be removed.

PL18-19

This is a new licence application from a researcher who is looking at renal injury and risk factors for the development of hypertension. The committee were happy to approve this application subject to addressing the following points:

- Project plan: some details of proposed research e.g. renal injury and adipose tissue inflammation are mentioned in the project plan but there is no mention of this work in the protocols section.
- Protocols: include standard guidance for blood sampling and frequency and administration of substances.
- Adverse effects: some adverse effects are missing for example intracranial administration of substances and liver injury models (paracetamol and Carbon tetrachloride).
- Humane endpoints: clarify monitoring guidelines and make clear humane endpoints (in terms of maximum weight loss and other factors).

PL21-19 This project licence is from an experienced PPL holder and is a continuation of existing work which aims to investigate the impact of pre-natal stress. It was agreed that the application can be approved subject to the clarification of the following points.

- Funding: may not be sufficient funding to cover all proposed work and additional funding may be sought from other sources, this needs to be made clearer in the application.
- 3Rs section: some aspects of the refinement section will sit better in the replacement section and should be moved.
- Page 18: rephrase certain terms to confirm that the most refined methods will be used throughout.
- NTS: in general this was well written but some terms like “cannula” could be clarified.
- Include correct justification for the use of Sham/control animals within the application.

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- Behaviour tests: consider whether some behavioural tests are justified scientifically and on what basis. It was agreed to ask the PPL applicant to provide evidence for the requirements for behavioural tests in the application.
- Typical animal experience: a paragraph with the typical experience detailed at the start of relevant protocols would be very helpful particularly where there are a number of optional steps.

PL22-19

This is a renewal application from an experienced researcher and will focus on the impact of low [REDACTED] in companion animals. It was agreed that this was a good quality application with very little revision required and was approved subject to consideration of the points below:

- Statistical analysis: 500 animals are requested however it is not clear how this figure has been reached or if statistical analysis has been carried out.
- Species: discuss need for additional species with the researcher, could amend at later date

PL23-19

This is a new licence application from a researcher who is looking at risk factors for the development of colorectal cancer. It was agreed that this licence was not ready for review and due to the number of revisions required to the project licence draft it was agreed that the committee would re-review the licence once these revisions had been addressed.

Action: Applicant will be informed of the decision to review the licence at a later stage pending revision of the PPL.

- Amendments requiring full AWERB approval
No licences

Amendment applications submitted to the sub-committee

A34-19, A35-19, A37-19: **approved**

8. **AOCB:** Relevant points detailed in the action summary.

Date of next Meeting: 1st October 2019 9.30am Seminar Room [REDACTED]