



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

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

2pm [REDACTED] Microsoft teams

### Minutes

#### 1. Attendance and apologies.

Apologies

[REDACTED]

The Chair formally welcomed the new [REDACTED] to the meeting.

#### 2. Minutes of last meeting:

The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on 27/08/2020

#### 3. Matters arising/Action points

- *Action:* presentation to AWERB by [REDACTED]: Outcome [REDACTED] to attend a suitable meeting later in the year: [REDACTED] dates circulated
- *Action: AWERB:* Agreed that the poster emphasising the role of the AWERB (for example at open days) is produced: [REDACTED] to collate relevant comments and submit to chair.
- *Action:* Letter to all animal staff thanking them during the pandemic: [REDACTED] complete
- *Action:* lessons learned from the Covid pandemic in animal research. Considering the use of a survey amongst users going forward: Action ([REDACTED] to send survey software link to [REDACTED] for consideration).

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

##### New Project licences

- none

##### Amended Project licences

- A38-20 [REDACTED]
- A33-20 [REDACTED]
- A39-20 [REDACTED]
- A47-20 PPL transfer [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]

#### 5. Project licence applications under consideration

PL22-20 [REDACTED]: Presentation to the AWERB and review

The committee heard a very interesting informal presentation from a new clinical applicant whose research will focus on the [REDACTED]. The proposed work represents a continuation of previous studies conducted at [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] to model the [REDACTED] in order to provide a translational pipeline for [REDACTED]. This PPL will seek additional availability at [REDACTED]. This collaborative work is planned for the new [REDACTED] facility.

**Discussion:**

- Adverse effects: It was clarified that, from experience with previous studies, typically fewer than 5% of [REDACTED] are found unsuitable for inclusion in trials examining therapeutic efficacy. Reasons ranged from failing initial health screens, through to over- or under-titration of the [REDACTED]. Any [REDACTED] unable to be used will be euthanised. It was noted that the careful selection of robust and healthy [REDACTED] and their subsequent evaluation using specific physiological and ECG measurements all contribute to this low incidence of rejection.
- Age of [REDACTED] it was noted that the [REDACTED] must be used within 48 hours to ensure that the umbilical cord remains intact for vascular access. This should be taken into consideration for supply arrangements.
- [REDACTED] insult in utero: there was some discussion over the respective benefits of models whereby [REDACTED] is induced in utero, or post-partum.
- Supply of [REDACTED] achieving a consistent local supply of [REDACTED] under 48h of age may present logistical issues, which may mean sourcing [REDACTED] from further afield. Further discussion with the Home Office inspector is advised.

**Summary:** Submission of committee comments to applicant for consideration and revision pending final AWERB approval. The revised draft application will also be submitted to [REDACTED] for consideration.

PL31-20 [REDACTED]: Presentation to the AWERB

The committee received a very interesting presentation on a new project licence which will focus on the generation of an [REDACTED] in sheep. It was noted that a year's funding is currently in place for this work (with further support from the [REDACTED]) however the outcome of a BBSRC response mode grant is anticipated by the end of October. The full application will be considered formally at the AWERB meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> October

**Summary:** the application will be submitted for review at the October AWERB meeting with a final decision pending funding outcome.

6. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB

**A22-20: [REDACTED] additional availability application:**

This application has been returned to the AWERB for approval following final revision, a summary of the final communication to the PPL applicant and collaborators is detailed below.

- [REDACTED] model: The committee has requested that, in the eventuality that the [REDACTED] model becomes necessary, the process of moving through to recovering pigs

from anaesthesia will be staged with an in-house review of progress after each pig. This has been conveyed to the applicant and relevant collaborators.

- Numbers: following a discussion with the researchers at [REDACTED] the numbers issue has been resolved, with 12 pigs being studied in total. A further 4 animals will be required for tissue collection (these not be under procedure).
- Anticipated Mortality: clarification was sought about the potential mortality rate in these [REDACTED] studies. The PPL in place indicates mortality rates of 20-30% .
- Conscious sedation: this term which was originally used in the application will be changed to “anaesthesia”.

**Summary:** Formal approval of additional availability detailing the final AWERB recommendations can now be sent to the applicant and the [REDACTED] for onward submission to the home office.

**A45-20 [REDACTED]:**

**Summary points:**

No comments on this amendment, the amendment was approved for submission to the home office.

**7. Overseas Research application: OS11-20 [REDACTED] Approved.**

It was noted that although local ethical review had not been previously conducted the AWERB were comfortable with this proposal; this study will utilise previously collected serum samples and would be used to examine the incidence of [REDACTED]. It was suggested that a minor revision to the form was added to explain the original usage for the pigs in question.

**8. Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** consider the production of a poster showing the effectiveness of paracetamol on pecking issues in birds and its effectiveness.

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

**10. NVS and NTCO update**

NTCO update:

- No report tabled

NVS update:

- Large animal facilities: work has restarted at the farm and is progressing well with a number of studies currently underway. It was noted that in one study revisions to an intraventricular cannulation protocol was required due to the occurrence of an unexpected adverse effect; this has now been resolved and studies will re-commence.

**11. PEL Holder update:**

No report tabled.

## 12. Reports from Facilities

Farms & [REDACTED] update ([REDACTED]):

- Facilities have been busy but work is progressing well.
- Planning for the potential of a second Covid wave with the expectation that research will be regarded as essential work thereby potentially avoiding a complete cessation of research.
- Noted that researchers have been extremely compliant and helpful in terms of prioritizing studies.
- Working with researchers to progress studies where possible; in some cases there have been limitations but in the most part studies have been accommodated.
- Students: students have returned to the facilities without issue, most work has involved blood sampling.

Poultry ([REDACTED])

- Experimental work continuing as normal, this has normally been completed by technical staff where possible to maintain social distancing..
- [REDACTED]: gene editing birds have been introduced to the facility

13. A.O.C.B: Requested that the committee review the recent publication of the new intranet site which includes details of the AWERB, this has not been changed but requested that members individually review the content of this site.

14. Date of next meeting: 29<sup>th</sup> October 2pm, Microsoft Teams.