



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

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2020

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 21<sup>st</sup> September 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: awaiting a suitable date.
- *Action:* lessons learned from the Covid pandemic in animal research. BVS website now has the link for [REDACTED] and Avian users to access a link to provide anonymous feedback on the Covid Pandemic. Action: information to be circulated to users on how to access this link.

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

##### New Project licences

- none

##### Amended Project licences

- A22-20: [REDACTED] amendment to add additional availability *granted*
- A38-20: [REDACTED] submitted to the home office *granted*

#### 5. Project licence applications under consideration

PL22-20 [REDACTED]: Summary of comments

#### Discussion:

- **Supply of piglets:** plans are currently being finalised to source a local supplier.

- **Mortality failure rate:** the success rate of the technique has been clarified in detail within the applicant's response to the reviewers. It was noted that this information on potential mortality rates has been added to the relevant section of the project licence.
- **Numbers:** A detailed explanation has been provided to explain that the numbers requested cover research work at both [REDACTED] and Edinburgh ([REDACTED]). The applicant has also provided information on the use of power calculations within the application.

**Summary:** The committee were satisfied that revisions had been made and were happy to approve this project.

PL31-20 [REDACTED]: summary of comments

**Discussion:**

- The project licence will use an experimental model of [REDACTED], this will be developed using longitudinal studies of [REDACTED] lesions via CT scans and ex-vivo analysis of exudate and tissues. The work may be used to develop translational work for [REDACTED] studies.
- [REDACTED] lesions: it was clarified that approximately 75% of lambs will develop [REDACTED] lesions within the first month,
- Clinical monitoring: some revisions requested to the clinical monitoring sheet for example to include body condition score which had not been included.
- Numbers: an additional 5 animals had been included in the application however there does not appear to be justification for this, this should be clarified.
- Funding: a grant has been submitted pending approval in November. In principle this can be approved and will be submitted once funding is in place.

**Summary:** approved: submission will be completed once the outcome of funding is known in November.

6. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB

A49-20: [REDACTED] summary of comments

**Discussion**

Sampling of the microbiome in the nasal cavity: the amendment is requested to accommodate the occasional situation where blood contamination of an initial swab obviates its value, and warrants a further sample being taken from the contralateral nostril.

- Sampling will be done by a PIL holder who is a vet at [REDACTED],
- This improved sampling method will remove the possibility of blood contaminating samples.
- Revision of the non-technical summary to remove described work now considered redundant in light of preliminary data.
- Circulate feedback from [REDACTED] to the committee.

Summary: approved for submission to the home office.

7. **Overseas Research application:** OS14-20 [REDACTED] Approved.

Summary of discussion: intimate that approval is granted pending the assurance that ethical approval is obtained in Uganda and evidence submitted to the committee and placed on file.

8. **Intranet site:** the committee heard a very interesting presentation on the revisions to the intranet site by [REDACTED] who is coordinating this. The committee will be updated as we go forward with progress.

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

[REDACTED] liaison group: a small group has been convened to discuss poultry related 3Rs issues, the AWERB will be updated on a regular basis. The use of a system for remote recording was discussed which could be useful for monitoring of behaviour, it was suggested that a future presentation on the system could be given to the AWERB.

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

11. **NVS and NTCO update**

NTCO update:

- Personal licence course is now online pending accreditation, but feedback has been very positive.
- The large animal course was run in October via Microsoft teams and was very well received. Assessment of handling competencies will be done in the candidates' home establishments.

NVS update LA:

- [REDACTED] mapping study. The initial studies, involving the effective interaction of a number of people, have started on a sound basis.
- The UoE AWERB is updating the PPL review form to an online version more in keeping with the requirements of the ASPEL process.

NVS update poultry:

- Pecking issues in young birds, with no obvious cause, have been noted. Feed samples have been taken from a recent batch to determine if there is an underlying nutritional cause for this.
- Monitoring of incubators: following an earlier issue alarms have been fitted to monitor power and also carbon dioxide levels. Variability in CO2 levels have been noted. Whilst these have remained within permitted levels, further study into the reasons behind this variability will help inform the adoption of strategies to adjust levels should that be required in future.

12. PEL Holder update:

No report tabled.

13. Reports from Facilities

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

- Covid: working at full capacity in all facilities. Noted that researchers are to be classified as essential workers to allow work to continue
- [REDACTED]: scheduled for occupancy Jan/February of next year.
- [REDACTED] will visit all LA and Poultry facilities with dates to be finalised.
- [REDACTED] lambs, work is ongoing and additional funding is being provided for additional therapeutic testing.
- [REDACTED] a number [REDACTED] underway, including those involving [REDACTED] as well as [REDACTED]

- Pigs: this work is mainly maintenance at the moment.
- [REDACTED]: initial studies have been successful and are being reviewed prior to progressing further.
- [REDACTED] cattle: some work ongoing pending completion in November.
- With a busy calendar forecast for the months ahead discussion was led around the current pressures associated with attempting to accommodate multiple large animal research projects amidst uncertainty. Previously, such responsibility was shared by committee, and care must be exercised that similar mechanisms are implemented going forward, rather than risk individuals being overly burdened in this regard. Forward planning will consider impacts if the pandemic becomes more severe, particularly for studies that are long term and complicated.

[REDACTED]:

- Work is ongoing and is busy, with students also on site for practical teaching.

#### Poultry ([REDACTED])

- **Monitoring in isolators:** new alarms have been fitted and although CO2 levels are within permitted limits plans to compare levels with rodent isolators are underway.
- [REDACTED]: health screening 10% of older flock will be sampled for standard pathogens.
- Assessment of fertility levels are being conducted to be able to obtain optimum hatching.
- [REDACTED]: Work is ongoing and although covid restrictions are in place users have been very helpful in clearly communicating their requirements.
- **Pecking:** a reduction in pecking has been observed which is very encouraging.
- **Beak trimming:** requested that beak trimming is not conducted in standard laying hens as previous studies have shown that this procedure may cause inflammation and infection. Initial results are very encouraging.

#### Avian egg facility:

- All running well, working with NTCO to determine training needs for new students, ostrich eggs now available within the facility.

14. A.O.C.B: Consider re-visiting the induction process for new AWERB members to ensure that everyone is aware of the various processes and how the AWERB works. Circulate relevant AWERB documents providing advice to the committee.

15. Date of next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> December October 2pm, Microsoft Teams.