



The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Thursday 3rd December 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 26th October 2020

3. Matters arising/Action points

- *Covid Pandemic: Lessons learned from the Covid pandemic in animal research.* Noted that the [REDACTED] 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. (completed)
- *GA Large animal PPLs:* consider a discussion group to discuss the use of GA PPLs going forward. Action: discussion group to be convened (ongoing)

4. Licensing of GAA projects going forward: Presentation by the Home Office inspector

The HOI gave a presentation to the committee to discuss licenses involving the use of and generation of genetically altered large animals; this was instigated in part by a recent amendment to a project license. With the advent of the [REDACTED] and the development of other large animal projects there should be caution in continually adding these models to existing PPLs.

Summary:

- Ensure that project licences amendments for GA LA production licences fit within the purpose of the existing PPL.
- Individual PPLs for more complex models may be required which would use animals developed on the current production licence.
- Ensure that PIs working under these licences takes responsibility for the science and management of the project, as opposed to leaving the responsibility to the current PPL holder.
- We need to make clear where the expertise lies within the licence particularly for managing the work, the project licence holder does not

necessarily have to be an expert in the disease being studied as long as there are close links with PIs.

- Ensure that within applications and amendments the harms are well described.

Summary: convene a small meeting with relevant parties to discuss main points, check with [REDACTED] about group and arrange this meeting.

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

New Project licences

- PL22-20

Amended Project licences

- A49-20: [REDACTED]

6. **Project licence applications under consideration**

None submitted

7. PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB

A54-20: [REDACTED]: summary of comments

Discussion

Approved: noted that this was submitted to the home office following approval by sub-committee review

Summary: approved for submission to the home office.

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

[REDACTED] liaison group: cameras have been purchased for monitoring of behaviour in some of the sheds. These are currently being used for pilot studies and going forward this may be the focus of a masters project to monitor behaviour and address issues such as pecking.

Large animal: updates will be given at the next meeting.

Leaders in Openness Awards: Noted that the University has been recognized as a leader in openness and received an award. Some examples include work at the [REDACTED] such as working with school children and public engagement workshops on animal research.

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

10. **NVS and NTCO update**

NTCO update:

- Personal licence courses are ongoing and very busy.

NVS update LA:

- [REDACTED] mapping study. The initial studies, involving the effective interaction of a number of people, have been very successful.

- Condition 18 report: one report tabled following an unexpected adverse effect but this has been investigated and found to be unrelated to the procedure.
- sheep: one animal euthanased due to some neurological sign. Following pathology investigation a bacterial infection within the CNS was noted which was unrelated to the procedure itself and not caused by the phenotype.

NVS update poultry:

- Monitoring of isolators for CO2: following an earlier issue an additional valve has been fitted by the manufacturer and CO2 levels are being monitored.

11. PEL Holder update:

: additional inspector is now in post, visits to the farm and LARIF with the .

12. Reports from Facilities

Farms & update ():

- : Stress testing may commence next week although this may mean that designation by the home office may not now happen till January. This will be confirmed in the next week.
- Security: female has been camping on farm grounds, there have been 2 police incidents where the individual has been removed from the grounds.
- Research: things have been very busy at the farm and recognized that staff have been working very hard.

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- Noted that primarily is for teaching purposes which has to be balanced with teaching and research but the balance is working well
- Currently busy with a number of experimental projects all going well.
- Selecting 6 new cohorts for blood donors reduced from our usual 10 animals so a refinement with this work.
- Completing last week of teaching and exams until mid January.
- Farm assurance visit: assessor seemed very pleased with lots of comments on how good the facilities and the cows looked.
- Some staff shortages which has been challenging and noted how hard staff are working.

Poultry ()

- : trying to avoid the use of isolators where possible.
- **Feed**: determining whether feed issues could be the result of pecking and noted that following analysis vitamin A levels are lower than required, Feed is still within date however going forward smaller batches may be ordered to try to prevent degradation of vitamins.

Avian egg facility:

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

Aquaculture facility updates:

1. [REDACTED] have now registered the [REDACTED] (clean facility) and [REDACTED] as aquaculture production business (APB), two separate sites. The disease challenge side of the [REDACTED] is to have the application for to be [REDACTED] submitted shortly.
2. In conjunction with the fish facility, [REDACTED] has also registered an Oyster facility and a [REDACTED] facility as [REDACTED].
3. FHI authority to import trout eggs and milt from the [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED] has been granted. Shipping date TBC.
4. Last study undertaken in the [REDACTED] was a salmonid study, which was conducted from Feb to May 2020, since that time the facility has been maintained in preparation for the introduction of more fish.
5. Service Level agreement between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] still under discussion.

13. A.O.C.B:

14. Date of next meeting: 22nd February 2pm, Microsoft Teams.