



The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday October 26th 2pm
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 the 28th September 2021.

3. Presentation to the AWERB: [REDACTED]

Summary of discussion points: [REDACTED] device project

This work, supported by the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] commercially sensitive

Future funding: funding is available for additional non-recovery work to further investigate placement and operation in relation to physiological and tissue responses. Collective experience and results will be appraised and analysed thereafter. Noted that plans for potential clinical work are envisaged in due course, for example in patients undergoing [REDACTED]

Conclusion: Recognising the need for further non-recovery work to optimize the device and its operation, and the inevitable uncertainties surrounding this process and its findings, it would be premature to approve a potential circumstance involving recovery from anaesthesia. The applicant expressed willingness to remove the intention to recover animals from the application with the understanding that any proposed implementation of recovery from anaesthesia can be considered under future amendment. The committee welcomed the presentation and felt that this was very helpful.

Questions:

1. Observations that longer-term anaesthesia can pose particular physiological and fluid balance issues that may compound those relating to perturbed cardiac function, highlights the need to ideally limit anaesthetic duration to no more than that likely to be experienced clinically.
2. Given the occurrence of very limited inflammatory changes could this perhaps lead to conditions such as [REDACTED] long term? Recognised that only limited information is currently available and that these are all considerations going forward.

4. Matters arising/Action points

- N/A

5. NVS update:

█: attended SC18 training, set up by the Home Office to standardise SC18 reporting and management. A revised document will be disseminated when available

6. NTCO update: Busy preparing for the audit and dealing with a number of emails in relation to training following the email to all PIL holders asking them to review training records and personal licensing.

7. PEL Holder update: preparation for the audit is well underway and organisation is progressing well. A positive approach to the audit is advocated. Indeed, one audit has already been completed at another establishment and reports indicate that the inspectors shared that positivity in undertaking a beneficial audit process.

8. Reports from Facilities

- **Farms (█):** Staffing is an issue within the facilities and work is currently very busy, there are 2 posts vacant at █. The first attempts at recruitment did not attract any suitable applicants. Notably, the farm manager position is still vacant, and will be re-advertised.
- **(█):** A temporary stockperson has been employed 4 days a week to mitigate for the shortfall in staffing. Recognized that this is a UK-wide issue and other similar agricultural organisations are facing similar problems. It was noted that the impact of Covid and Brexit has been a major contributory factor.
- **Poultry (█):** no report tabled
- **Chick Embryo room – (█):** updating paperwork and training records in advance of the audit.
- **Aquaculture Facility - (█):** visit from the Fish Health Inspectorate, specifically because of the intended use of infected materials. This went well, with no issues raised. Recruiting currently for technical staff. Encouraged that, whilst few applicants are coming forward, they are of a good standard.
- **Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** 3Rs committee noted that a number of abstracts recently submitted to the annual 3Rs symposium were from large animal users. Short presentations relating to those abstracts will be encouraged in the new year.

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

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

New Project licences: additional availability █

The PPL applicant has agreed that the proposed recovery work will be withdrawn. If necessary, such work can be considered under future amendment. Noted that potential funders should be made aware of the significant ethical questions surrounding the justification for such recovery work, and the need for consultation in planning such applications. In relation to continuing to promote effective lines of communication between █ and the █ team, noted that the results of that collaborative experience and discussion should be reflected in **strategy** and practice going forward.

Conclusion: Subject to removal of the proposed recovery work, the application can now be recommended by the AWERB.

Agreed to circulate the revised version from █ to sub-committee and to include the final version in the December minutes. If sub-committee approval is given approval can be sent.

11. **PPL amendments under consideration by the AWERB**

█ A63-21:

This relatively straightforward amendment attracted very few comments. The applicant will be encouraged to revise the lay summary to make it more accessible. Noted that the structure of the NTS is very frustrating in the new Aspel system and perhaps this can be fed back to the Home Office at some point.

Outcome: approved

12. Overseas research application: OS8-21

The committee approved this application

13. Presentation to the committee “Appraising animal research ethics in a published article”: The committee heard a presentation prompted by concerns over the ethical justification for a study involving eye removal and replacement with prostheses in laboratory Beagles.

Custom-made artificial eyes using 3D printing for dogs: A preliminary study. PLOS ONE 16(1): e0245080.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0245080>

Discussion revealed that expressions of concern were raised over whether the implants and prosthetics offered any clinical benefits for dogs as compared to conventional eye removal procedures, and whether the use of naïve dogs instead of clinical cases was necessary. Despite the journal publishing its own expression of concern, and reportedly reassessing the issues in accordance with Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) guidance, no further progress has been reported since January 2021.

Discussion around ethics in publications ensued, and AWERB members were encouraged to continue to cast an ethical eye over the publications they review, if appropriate bringing forward material for wider awareness.

14. A.O.C.B:

15. Date of next meeting: 6th December 2pm, Microsoft Teams.