



The [REDACTED] Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 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 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

3. Matters arising/Action points

- N/A

4. NVS update:

[REDACTED]: Noted that the HOI was very impressed with the [REDACTED] during the audit.

[REDACTED]: 2 standard condition 18s submitted. The first involved the [REDACTED] sheep with knuckling of the fetlock joint. This may be the result of the [REDACTED] in the transgenic model or a response to anaesthetic. The animals recovered after 24 hours and are doing well.

The other incident involved failure of a piece of equipment required to maintain a specific temperature in a [REDACTED] piglet. As the experiment could not be continued, the animal was humanely killed. The HOI advised that this incident be reported. The equipment has been repaired.

It was also noted that the audit went well and only very minimal comments were recorded. The full report should be available shortly.

5. 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.

6. PEL Holder update: feedback on audit was given to the committee, noted that verbal feedback at the close of audit meeting was extremely positive. Currently awaiting the full report.

7. Reports from Facilities

- Farms ([REDACTED] and [REDACTED]): completion of building work is anticipated will be completed by February. Staffing has improved and one member of staff on long term sick leave has now returned to full time employment. Two staff members tested positive for Covid which meant isolation for 10 days, staff members are recovering and will return to work. Other ongoing work includes, [REDACTED] work, [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] ([REDACTED]): Interviews for vacant posts will be held next week, which should alleviate current staff shortages.

- **Poultry ( and )**- Home office audit has been carried out, some additional SOPs produced. **building**: some staffing issues due to leave now resolved. **birds** are being weighed and body condition scored weekly. Additional enrichments being considered and reviewed to ensure acceptance. Noted that although enrichments can be more difficult in the **building**, a similar process of ongoing review is underway.
- **Chick Embryo room –** : no problems to report. Some plans to inject embryos at E18 and take forward to E20. Discussions with the NVS will occur before this is approved. Concerns raised over whether possible chick hatches could be an issue for this room. Clarity sought over whether could instead be conducted in the **building**.
- **Aquaculture Facility - ( )**: The HOI auditor visit went well. Identified air conditioning issues are being resolved. A new member of staff has been recruited and will commence work early in the new year. Currently no regulated work is taking place in the facility with no timescale for this taking place as of yet.
- **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.

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

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

none

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

none

11. **Presentation to the committee**

The committee heard a very interesting presentation on a proposed amendment which will focus on the treatment of **█**. The model will be established in pigs and will use a **█** as a potential treatment. The amendment will be split into 2 proposed studies. The first, involving 9 pigs, will be a study to look at the safety of the **█** treatment. In the second study (n=9) the **█** model in pigs will be established followed by a challenge with the therapeutic **█** preparation.

Questions:

1. Are adverse effects expected? A specific multi drug resistant strain will be chosen which causes **█** in both animals and humans. The only adverse effects could be fever and some inflammation of the bladder. Humane endpoints will be applied to prevent any more invasive effects such as nephritis.
2. Age of pigs? Pigs will be used at approximately 3 months of age. Consultations have been ongoing at the **█** on this work.
3. Are there any concerns on the biosecurity from the **█** in terms of working with this pathogen? As work is carefully controlled within the work and SOPs of the **█** this should not be a concern. The animals would be housed in the **█** containment suite. Prior to this work being conducted a full risk assessment will be completed.

12. **A.O.C.B**:

13. **Date of next meeting**: 24<sup>th</sup> January 2pm, Microsoft Teams.