



## The Roslin Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday October 24th 2022 [REDACTED] and Microsoft teams Hybrid  
**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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### 3. Matters arising/Action points

**No matters raised, minutes approved.**

4. **NVS update:** noted that study request forms for Roslin have to be submitted to the main ERF account a minimum of 2 weeks in advance, ideally 3 weeks if possible. Noted that while these forms are very useful, they do not replace the project licence, and should parallel good lines of communication between researchers and support groups. Adverse effects noted in an [REDACTED] study following [REDACTED] induction. Noted that monitoring blood pressure may not offer sufficient resolution to discriminate effect of gene expression. Consultation with the home office has prompted consideration of an amendment to change the study design.

[REDACTED] study pigs: noted that whilst the recent amendment to facilitate GA research at [REDACTED] was obtained promptly, logistical issues dictated that this work was ultimately unable to go ahead. A programme of work has been designed to derive scientific benefit from these GA pigs.

**NTCO update:** September courses have been run and completed, with 77 applicants and 10 large animal candidates. The LA course will continue to operate on a face to face basis. The NTCO attended the home office accreditation meeting for all establishments. This involved the 3 accreditation boards and these meetings are proposed to align processes and provide consistency.

5. **PEL Holder update:** The autumn meeting with ASRU has been rescheduled. The application window for the post of Director of BVS has closed.

6. **Edinburgh AWERB:** Noted some delays with licences determined to be "not complete and correct" by inspectors, these responses being delivered just prior to the end of the 40 day initial project application review period. This causes issues, particularly where licences require continued authority.

### 7. Reports from Facilities

**Farms:** [REDACTED] is relatively quiet, some staff on leave.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] studies cancelled due to Covid and rescheduled for December/early 2023. Some studies cancelled due to a specific drug shortage. Re-advertisement for a technician is ongoing.

**Poultry** [REDACTED] some staff shortages due to sickness. [REDACTED] knockout studies are approved and due to commence, animals will be closely monitored for potential phenotype issues. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] building work is ongoing but causing

minimal disruption. Due to the building work some rooms have been removed from the PEL and this has now been approved. A new committee will be formed to look at the running of the facilities and finances, [REDACTED] (NVS) will also join this committee.

**Chick embryo room [REDACTED]:** everything running well, no issues encountered.

#### **Aquaculture Facility [REDACTED]**

1. Air handling unit and facility A/C have been serviced, which should mitigate against further condensation problems.
2. The aquarium system is due for a service by [REDACTED] date TBC.
3. The [REDACTED] population are being sampled to examine their genetic make-up but will not be disease-challenged prior to being culled.
4. The [REDACTED] population, with date of birth Jan 2022, are being maintained, with a view to transfer these fish to the [REDACTED] fish PPL (the Roslin fish PPL only permits fish to be kept until 1-yr old (or 15cm in length)).
5. The [REDACTED] fish PPL has been submitted to the Home Office to have an amendment applied, which will permit disease-challenge studies. The Roslin fish PPL, currently held by [REDACTED] will be submitted for a renewal in the near future. This PPL cannot have the amendment for the disease-challenge studies whilst held by [REDACTED] as there would be a conflict of interest. It is anticipated that the Roslin fish PPL will be transferred to a member of Roslin staff in the future.
6. Progress is being made to develop the CCTV system for monitoring fish population that are to be disease-challenged.
7. A member of BVS aquatics staff has resigned today, recruiting to replace this member of staff.

**Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:** culture of care day to be held 10<sup>th</sup> November, advertised.

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

PL30-22 [REDACTED]  
PL31-22: [REDACTED]  
PL32-22: [REDACTED]

#### **Project Licence amendments *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting**

A49-22 [REDACTED]: additional availability)  
A57-22: [REDACTED]  
A60-22 [REDACTED]

#### **9. Presentations:**

**Amendment [REDACTED]:** This will involve adding another objective (objective 7) in order to study [REDACTED] and will involve the use of a [REDACTED] model, this will mean that sampling can be obtained without having to euthanase pigs. The amendment will also include the addition of a new protocol 5 which will look at [REDACTED] a pathogen of pigs that causes vomiting and diarrhea, and high mortality. The objectives of this amendment are to establish the cannulation model to use in an experimental study of [REDACTED]. This work will be conducted at the [REDACTED] under biosecurity level 2. Noted that a cannulation study on a cadaver has already been carried out successfully in 2021. A pilot study will be carried out and will use 5 pigs, 3 cannulated and 2 non-cannulated. The other part of the amendment will focus on [REDACTED].

#### **Presentation: [REDACTED] new PPL application:**

The main aim of this new PPL is to look at [REDACTED]  
The main objectives of this new PPL are to look at the role of bacterial factors during infection, to look at host resistance and to look at the genetic basis of host resistance.

In the applicant's previous licence it was noted that the majority of work was in chickens for [REDACTED] with only a small number of pigs used for [REDACTED].

The new PPL will have a moderate protocol for [REDACTED]

## 10. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB

### PL35-22 [REDACTED]

The committee agreed that approval of the PPL would be contingent on the removal of mice. The licence lacked clear justification for use of this species, and the species had not been used in the previous PPL. It was noted that the application had been approved by the [REDACTED] AWERB.

**Discussion:** This was approved subject to addressing the following points

1. Species: clarify the use of the specific species, some requested (ie mice) were not used in the existing PPL.
2. Animal Models: despite requested use of several species in the existing PPL, only pigs and poultry were ultimately used. There needs to be clear justification for using the species selected in the new application.
3. Pilot studies: the existing PPL application incorporated pilot studies which are now complete. Their inclusion within a protocol in the submitted application is therefore no longer appropriate and the application should be adjusted accordingly.

### PL34-22 [REDACTED]:

The committee previously heard an interesting presentation on this proposed PPL which will study [REDACTED] in horses. It was noted that further proposed work will be added and a revised version circulated to the committee in due course.

**Discussion:**

1. Noted that further changes may be made to the PPL to accommodate some additional work. A revised version will be circulated in due course.
2. Some concerns raised about the concern of positioning/recumbency in horses and if this has been investigated previously.
3. In the aims section clarify which permissible purposes apply to this project?
4. Further justification and explanation of the benefits to welfare are required in the application, this needs to be emphasized in general in the NTS.
5. As above clearer details of the benefits of this work are required and who will benefit and why this is important is needed.
6. The background section could benefit from additional relevant details including the incidence of atrial fibrillation incidence, relevant welfare problems and mortality.

## 11. PPL amendments:

**A58-22:** The committee agreed that further revisions and additional clarification of this work is required before approval can be given, a revised version will be re-submitted to the committee in due course.

1. **Aims:** Clarification is sought about the nature of this work: the aims appear to be related to the investigation of [REDACTED] in general rather than addressing the role of the [REDACTED] in a clinically relevant model of [REDACTED]
2. **Adverse effects:** It looks like there are considerable adverse effects with these models, can this be expanded and more details of monitoring provided. Is there published evidence of the success of [REDACTED] without the administration of systemic antibiotics peri-operatively? Is any data available on failure rate due to infection?
3. **Licence availability:** can the applicant clarify when the licence will be moved to the [REDACTED] institute, and whether this will happen prior to this amendment being submitted?
4. **[REDACTED] sampling:** Please clarify when and how [REDACTED] sampling will be conducted on non-cannulated control animals, will this be via post mortem samples as this is not possible via faecal sampling?

5. Sample size: there is a need to clarify the sample size and how the group sizes have been determined? For example in one study 3 piglets are requested, will this be a suitable number?
6. **Pilot study:** [REDACTED] in pigs: it appears that this is a well-established technique therefore it is unclear why this initial stage is required. If different ages and different environmental conditions are being used this should be made clear and justified. In the first part of the study where animals will be cannulated, will these animals be used as controls as part of the main study? If so the amendment should be re-worded to make this clearer and, for example, explain that these animals will be used as controls. At present, there does not seem to be a justification for comparing cannulated and non-cannulated pigs.
7. [REDACTED] clarification as to why this virus is being studied as it does not appear to be of a significant risk to animals in the UK. Need to make clear that this is being used to model coronaviruses as this was not clear in the amendment application. It appears that the piglets at the time of challenge will be significantly older than the animals most affected by the virus in commercial pig farms. The committee noted that unless it is clearly justified that this work fits within the aims it may be that a new PPL may be required to address this work.
8. **Housing:** can the details of when animals will be moved be clarified. Some concerns that movement on the day of infection could act as a stressor.

12. **Date of next meeting:** November 21<sup>st</sup> November 2pm, [REDACTED] /hybrid format.