



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 15/12/2022

The University of Edinburgh

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 15/12/2022

Microsoft Teams

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1. **Welcome** The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including a new member, and thanked them for attending.– Apologies – **separate attendance log**
 2. **Minutes of Meeting held on 22/11/2022: approved**
 3. **No matters arising**

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4. **(a) Project licences under consideration:**

PL38-22: PPL application

This was a very well written application with no major issues, some minor points are detailed below application approved subject to revision of minor points :

- [REDACTED] protocol only has 100 mice, is this an adequate number, to clarify?
- Some missing adverse effects in places, this should be checked.
- Justification protocol 3, routes of delivery (less common routes) must be justified.
- Clarify if [REDACTED] is required for a scientific purpose.

A39-22: PPL application

This is a very well written PPL with only minor comments detailed, the application has 3 protocols and can be approved subject to revision of detailed points.

- **Humane endpoints:** these need some clarification, they have been very well written but lack details for more standard studies.
- **Adverse effects:** some adverse effects have not been detailed for example the administration of tamoxifen.
- **Breeding:** check that all relevant steps as for the standard protocols have been included.
- **Admin of [REDACTED]s:** no adverse effects detailed but this is a moderate protocol so this may be an oversight and should be clarified; this has been similarly omitted for the use of [REDACTED] which may potentially have adverse effects.
- **NTS:** there are some technical terms within the application, these should be revised.

A40-22: PPL application

This is a renewal of the [REDACTED] service PPL and is a generally well written renewal. The committee were happy to approve the application subject to addressing the comments detailed below:



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- Genotyping: consider doing this at an earlier stage (pre-day 5), this would be at a pre-regulated stage.
- Wording: some changes to the standard wording is required which will hopefully be approved by the home office, there are some issues with the current standard wording which would make it difficult for us to work within certain specific guidance.
- Harm/benefits: seek clarification about the moderate breeding in terms of a similar approach to the rodent service licence. We may include a statement to clarify that any moderate lines would be justified on a case by case basis

PL41-22: approved for transfer.

PL18-22: re-submission: The AWERB were happy to approve the use of “will” for analgesia for genotyping purposes. If the PPL applicant wishes to withhold the use of analgesia then this would need to come back to AWERB with a clear justification. The committee agreed that the applicant should follow the advice of the NVS.

Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

A71-22: This amendment involves the addition of a new severe protocol (Protocol 8) some clarification on a number of points was required and a summary of these are detailed below:

- Numbers: 2000 animals is a large number for a severe number, seek clarification and justification on this point.
- severity classification: this needs to be more specific – currently described adverse effects do not correlate with 90% of animals being severe.
- Adverse effects: more detail on adverse effects in general and monitoring for [REDACTED] is required, specific details on monitoring and humane endpoints are not clear.
- [REDACTED] clarify if these will be inserted at the same time as [REDACTED]

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved:

A61-22), A63-22), A65-22, A72-22

5. Reports

Deputy Director Facilities (report)



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- Aqua – 2 technicians resigned, recruitment has taken place, 1 filled by an internal upgrade, second by an external beginning their employment in January 2023.
- During January plan to recruit for 2 x UoE3s, to cover internal [REDACTED] upgrade and a resignation in [REDACTED]
- Hosted a visit from NC3Rs Welfare, interested to learn and understand how animal facilities function day to day, this was the first experience for one of the inside of a rodent facility.

NACWO report

- The conditions within the facilities have remained constant during the colder weather.
- Some challenges for some of the facilities to maintain the required conditions, [REDACTED] required the use of in room humidifiers.
- Some holding rooms in [REDACTED] are using oil heaters to support what the plant room can provide
- [REDACTED] suffered a water leak from the plant room above.

NVS/3Rs update:

- 4 separate incidents in rodents: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

3Rs update: Culture of Care event 10th November 2022

- The event was very successful. Very interesting panel discussion on “what do we talk about when we talk about work”. Around 80 attendees. Thank you to AWERB members participating.
- Culture of Care events to continue on in 2023 starting on the 26th of January with a half-day workshop on compassion fatigue lead by [REDACTED]

NTCO update

- PIL course training completed for 2022. In total, 268 individuals have attended the courses over the last 12 months.
- Certificates for the [REDACTED] students starting projects are currently at the Accreditation Board (due back by 16th Dec). All [REDACTED] students have received certificates and have started to apply for PILs. Not expecting any significant delays in project start dates in January.
- Dates for PIL courses in 2023 are being set. E1/L, PILAB rodent, PIL F and PIL C will continue online for 2023. Looking to convert some of the contents for PILAB Zebrafish and PILAB Large Animal to online learning in 2023.
- Approx. 1300 (re)assessments of rodent procedures were completed in 2023. Additional assessments were also completed for LA studies.
- SOPs and assessments are being created for ZBfish regulated procedures and LA procedures to bring these species in line with rodents and provide a consistent training system for all PIL holders. This will also allow transfer of training records to electronic records (Tick@lab &

