THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Ethics flowchart - students

Each research study is unique and if you have a complex project or are unsure which ethics committees you need to submit an application to, please speak to the Committee.

- Are you collecting data about or from humans?
- Are you using a survey, interview, focus groups?
- Are you using images or videos that contain humans?
- Are you using a previous data set e.g. from a survey?
- Are you collecting data from social media?

Yes → HERC

No → And

- Are you collecting human bodily fluids?
- Are you using NHS/medical data?

Yes → Please discuss with your supervisor before completing an ACCORD application → ACCORD

No

- Are you collecting data related to veterinary biomedical research involving animals?
- Are you collecting data on/about animals?
- Are you using retrospective data? (animals)

Yes → VERC

- Do you need a Home Office license for the research you are undertaking with animals?
- Are you conducting regulated procedures on animals? (this will require a Personal Licence – PIL)

Yes → AWERB

No

- Is your project going to be part of a bigger project license? (supervisor/Principal Investigator will advise)
- Please discuss with your supervisor before completing an AWERB application
- VERC may also recommend completing an AWERB

If you have answered no to all questions – then it is unlikely you are requiring ethics approval. This may be due to undertaking desk based research such as a literature review.

- **HERC** - Human Ethical Review Committee: To consider and regulate all research involving human participants https://edin.ac/2VA41PI herc.vets@ed.ac.uk
- **ACCORD** - Academic and Clinical Central Office for Research and Development http://www.accord.ed.ac.uk/
- **AWERB -** Animal Welfare Ethical Review Body: An AWERB is a legal requirement under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. https://www.ed.ac.uk/bioresearch-veterinary-services
- **VERC** - Veterinary Ethical Review Committee: To consider and regulate all veterinary biomedical research involving animals. Application form on Learn (Research Methods & Statistics course) verc@ed.ac.uk

For corrections contact: Louise Connelly (2021 v4 - students)