

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BOARD

A meeting of the AWERB was held at 11:00 on Tuesday 23rd April 2024

Location:

Video conferencing

Summary of actions

Item	Action	Due
7	Potential PIL training for non-regulated animal work and also retrospective reviews of projects, including wildlife projects, for refinements. Chair proposed this is explored further outside of AWERB and brought back with any further update.	ongoing

Minutes

		Agenda item	AWERB Decision	
1.	11:00	Welcome and apologies.		
	(10 mins)	Chair welcomed new members including new NACWO.		
2.		Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2024	Approved	AWERB/2324/33 a, b
		Minutes were agreed as accurate and approved for publishing.		
3.		Matters Arising/Actions		AWERB/2324/34
		Three actions in progress, updates discussed.		
		Approval to publish AWERB minutes has been submitted to RIEC and AWERB will be updated next meeting.		
4.	11:10	New PPL Review		AWERB/2324/35
	(30 mins)	<u>New PPL AWERB/2324/35 was reviewed by AWERB.</u> PPL Holder attended to give a PowerPoint Presentation giving background, Harm vs Benefits and consideration of the 3RS. Discussion summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zebrafish vs mammal as a means of showing refinement would not be ideal.• Swabbing vs Fin Clipping: Researcher will be looking to use swabbing as a preference.• Single Housing - Adding date of maximum duration of experiment.• Larval animal numbers may need clarification.	revision required	

5.	11:40 (30 mins)	New PPL Review <u>New PPL AWERB/2324/36 was reviewed by AWERB.</u> PPL Holder attended to give a PowerPoint Presentation giving background, Harm vs Benefits and consideration of the 3RS. Discussion summary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optional step of antibiotics was discussed, this was clarified by researcher as they may wish to administer antibiotics due to handling transfer. • Researcher confirmed use of both sexes. • AWERB sought clarification regarding escalating doses to small numbers; Researcher confirmed 1 mouse per dose. • Discussion took place regarding further weight loss expected, which is ambiguous as to a humane end point. Researcher to make this clearer. • Discussion took place regarding monitoring of mice twice daily and what would prompt more monitoring . 	<i>revision required</i>	AWERB/2324/36
6.	12:10 (20 mins)	General updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Establishment Licence updates</u> No changes other than new NACWO will need to be added. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Standard Condition 18 reports</u> 1 x Mild breeding protocol 1 x Response from 2023 1 x NC form (Lighting) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Compliance issues</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reported insect ingress in 3 facilities and struggling for any action from estates although a meeting is being held this afternoon, so there will be more updates next meeting. • <u>Updates from Named Persons Meeting</u> None • <u>CoC update</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ BRF space working group in place now. • <u>HOLC update</u> No updates from HOLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Update from BSU Board meeting.</u> No meeting has taken place since the last AWERB meeting. • <u>Estates</u> No updates • <u>NTCO update</u> 		

		<p><u>Training and Reassessments.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tunnel handling for mice. • Schedule 1 training carried out for fish and rodent researchers. • Schedule 1 competency assessment for new NACWO • Competency assessment carried out for intra tracheal administrations. • Training and competency assessments in mouse oral gavage • Training in mouse anaesthesia and recovery • Competency assessments for single housing and withdrawal of food in fish • PIL Practical sessions for both rodent and fish researchers currently being planned. <p><u>Conference and Courses.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Named Information Officer attended an NIO Course • A few technicians attended a 3H's launch event (Housing. Handling and habituation of rodents) at Bristol. The 3H's framework has been developed by a renowned Professor in this field and their team of neuroscientists. Promoting the positive benefits of habituating and rewarding rodents to handling and procedures minimising the restraint needed. • Zebrafish workshop, held in house a couple of weeks ago. Workshop hugely successful. Lots of attendance. An overview was then provided by a NACWO. 		
7.	12:30 <i>(10 mins)</i>	<p>Named Veterinary Surgeon's visit (verbal update)</p> <p>The NVS updated members on the recent visit, including genotyping methods, regenerated Killfish lines, Guppy enrichment, further discussions on complex mouse lines, ear tags in mice and environmental health monitoring in rodents,</p> <p>NVS suggested potential PIL training for non-regulated animal work and also retrospective reviews of projects, including wildlife projects, for refinements. Chair proposed this is explored further outside of AWERB and brought back with any further update.</p>		
8.	12:40 <i>(5 mins)</i>	<p>Update on Chair's Action</p> <p>Regulated: 2 x amendments still in review process and not ready for chair's action yet.</p>		

		Non-regulated:1 x non-regulated overseas project involving shrews endorsed. 1x still in review process.		
9.	12:45 (5 mins)	Any Other Business None		
10.	13:00	End		

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 21st May 2024 (online)