

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BOARD

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

Location:
online

Summary of actions

Item	Action	Due
6	Fumigation delays to be raised with PELh	Aug 2024
9	Unsupported procedure policy to have slight revision around language and recommendation of alternatives to support transition. To bring back updated version to October meeting.	Oct 2024

Minutes

		Agenda item	AWERB Decision	
1.	11:00 (10 mins)	Welcome and apologies Welcome new member, who brings a wealth of experience with rodent research and experience with ethical committees. Apologies noted.		
2.		Minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2024 Agreed as accurate record and approved for publishing.	<i>Approved</i>	AWERB/2324/43
3.		Matters Arising/Actions The Chair updated members that after 13 years, our Lay member will be stepping down in March 2025. The proposal to recruit now for an external independent lay member(s) was approved and also the advert to disseminate was approved. AWERB members were asked to let the AWERB secretary know if members circulate to any appropriate external groups or if they want this done on their behalf.		AWERB/2324/44 AWERB/2324/45
4.	11:10 (30 mins)	New PPL Review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWERB reviewed New PPL AWERB/2324/46. 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"> AWERB thanked Researcher for giving a clear presentation and with emphasis on wide ranging outreach programme. Discussion took place on the numbers of animals and was reassured by the researcher as to the numbers required to achieve scientific outcomes. 	<i>Endorsed</i>	AWERB/2324/46

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion took place regarding maximum number of uses and blood samples/location and to ensure consistent throughout PPL. • Handling time was discussion and recommendations for extra clarification in PPL. • Researcher confirmed no re-use of needles. • NACWO assured AWERB that having spent the summer with the research team, they are excellent. Training and competency are very good, with excellent level of care. <p>AWERB endorsed this PPL and for the researcher to make minor changes as per the recommendations before submitting.</p>		
5.	11:40 (15 Mins)	<p>PPL Amendment Review</p> <p>AWERB reviewed PPL amendment AWERB/2324/47a,b. Researcher attended and gave summary/short slide presentation on behalf of PPL holder as this amendment (to add additional protocol).</p> <p>Summary of Discussion: AWERB had nothing further to raise, NVS confirmed that extensive discussions and reviews have happened around this fostering protocol.</p> <p>AWERB endorsed this amendment.</p>	Endorsed	AWERB/2324/47 a,b
6.	11:55 (20 mins)	<p>General updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment Licence updates <p>None to report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Condition 18 reports <p>There have been five SC18 reports submitted to the HO since the last meeting with one being a 'keep alive' request but since this the mouse deteriorated and was euthanised. Three mice had been found deceased with no obvious cause. Also, one mouse had seizure and immediately died with no obvious cause.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance issues <p>The was one potential non-compliance reported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from Named Persons Meeting <p>Recent meeting postponed due to leave.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from BSU Board meeting <p>There has been no meeting since the last AWERB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estates 		AWERB/2324/48 a,b

		<p>AWERB were updated in the delay in insect control treatment by 3 months in the facility has good control (within) but fumigation of the room makes the difference. Action: Fumigation delays to be raised with PELh</p> <p>Discussion took place around movement/switch over of departments/facilities which has involved a huge amount of work over the last year but will be functional in October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CoC update <p>Members were updated on the ongoing Culture of Care work, including working group, newsletter, away days including a workshop from UAR about how to discuss BRF staff being proud of their animal care roles, and supporting such important research when interacting with the public and facility tours for technicians. There are also 'space' working-groups looking at improving space for tech staff. There are also seminars being held by researchers for tech staff to learn about their research. Also focus on animal CoC using resources such a Noracopa.</p> <p>The has been a successful appointment of a new NACWO who will hopefully join AWERB in October.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTCO update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Competency and animal handling assessments have been undertaken ○ Procedural assessments as required ○ PIL refresher course was well received and will be done every 2 years – next one will be held at other campus. Really important for PIL holders to realise their responsibilities. ○ ASPA Act local module training provided for new BRF staff ○ working with Named Persons to review training policy in September as ASPA training legislation introduced an extra module to be completed. This will be circulated as appropriate to academics for full review. ○ PEL Holder day in October will be attended by PELh and PELh delegate. • HOLC update <p>Presentation slides shared with AWERB on the Openness Conference and workshop 'Maximising the effectiveness of your AWERB' which included discussions on ethics which is more centred around not what can be done, but what ought to be done and more than just ensuring legal compliance. Also focus on training for AWERB members.</p>		
7.	12:15 (15 Mins)	<p>3Rs initiatives/updates</p> <p>As there was not a named persons meeting since the last AWERB, there are no 3Rs initiatives to update.</p> <p>The chair suggested that at future meetings we breakdown this section into Replacement, Reduction, Refinement and for all to table any initiatives in these areas or other related information that is relevant, also</p>		

		<p>any examples of replacement at the university. AWERB members agreed.</p> <p>Replacement - Member raised that a N3Rs bid is being prepared for research equipment for human organoids model.</p>		
8.	12:30 (10 mins)	<p>Named Veterinary Surgeon's visit (<i>verbal update</i>)</p> <p>NVS gave verbal update of recent visit, including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and ongoing plans for dropsy symptoms and increased background mortality with associated line. • Mangrove killifish been shown to start feeding immediately on hatching. • discussions around Arabian killifish ages, health, mortalities, egg production and viability. • Trout and seabream being held. • Discussion regarding a few GA lines which have had health issues. 		
9.	12:40 (10 mins)	<p>Policy Review of Unsupported Procedures (<i>FR</i>)</p> <p>This policy has been updated with small link changes and no changes to procedures. This policy is in line with procedures not supported by 3Rs and allows a framework in place, including requiring robust justification needed if wanting to use them.</p> <p>Discussions took place regarding alternatives to fish tail clipping and also NVS explained the refinement in the Tamoxifen administration in the form of micro encapsulated Tamoxifen pellets. There is a higher risk of adverse effects when dosing animals IP.</p> <p>Recommended changes were suggested</p> <p>Action: for the Unsupported procedure policy to have slight revision around language and recommendation of alternatives to support transition. To bring back updated version to October meeting.</p>	Revision required	AWERB/2324/49
10.	12:50 (5 mins)	<p>Update on Chair's Action</p> <p><u>Regulated</u> None endorsed since last meeting. A few in review still.</p> <p><u>Non-regulated</u> Overseas shark project endorsed</p>		
11.	12:55 (5 mins)	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>NACWO announced leaving and AWERB wished them well with their new role.</p> <p>It was raised as to named persons advice challenged regarding Schedule 1 and legal requirement for this to take place in designated room.</p>		

12.	13:00	End		
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Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 24th September 2024 Online