

A meeting of the AWERB was held at 11:00 on Tuesday 24th September 2024

Location:
Online

Summary of actions

Item	Action	Due
6	To share CoC Newsletter with AWERB	September 2024
6	To appoint replacement member from Estates	November 2024

Minutes

		Agenda item	AWERB Decision	
1.	11:00 (10 mins)	Welcome and apologies Apologies were noted and the Chair welcomed new Ethics Officer who will be providing business support to the AWERB and also welcomed new rodent facility manager who will shortly become a NACWO and member of AWERB. Thanks, and farewell were given to the Zebrafish manager and NACWO who will be leaving in October. The chair thanked them for their contribution to AWERB.		
2.		Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July 2024 AWERB approved the minutes for publication.	Approved	AWERB/2425/01
3.		Matters Arising/Actions The chair highlighted that there were a few actions carried over from last academic year and these are being worked on presently. The action to inform PEL of routine insecticide delays has been completed. Estates updated members that this has now been arranged for a monthly treatment, despite no designated budget for this yet. As part of the action to update the overarching animal policies which cover non-ASPAs animal work, the chair updated members that a meeting took place to discuss best way forward for these policies. It was decided that they would be combined into one public facing policy. A summary of the change proposals will be brought to AWERB at the November meeting and for onward consultation with relevant stakeholders. The chair updated members that there is a meeting in October with a potential new independent lay member.		AWERB/2425/02
4.	11:10 (30 mins)	New PPL Review <u>New PPL AWERB/2025/03 was reviewed by AWERB.</u> The PPL applicant 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 was pleased with the lay summary splicing example. • Researcher was asked to clarify the severity of the protocols. AWERB advised to provide a statement explaining why tumours do not cause suffering. • Discussion took place regarding adverse effects and ensuring this is included in the steps. 	Revision required	AWERB/2425/03

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWERB advised using body condition scoring system along with weight. • The total number of mice in the reduction section needs correcting. • Researcher was asked for more clarity on what animals will be coming from the breeding protocol. • Discussion took place regarding <i>in vivo</i> imaging under anaesthesia. • Researcher clarified the use of both sexes. • Lay writing was highlighted, but some words are not lay enough. <p>The applicant is to revise their PPL and detailed feedback will be provided.</p>		
5.	11:40 (30 Mins)	<p>New PPL Review</p> <p><u>New PPL AWERB/2425/04 was reviewed by AWERB.</u> The PPL applicant attended to give a PowerPoint Presentation giving background, Harm vs Benefits and consideration of the 3RS. Discussion summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AWERB thanked the researcher for giving the presentation and were impressed with the outreach. • AWERB highlighted the plan for null results. • AWERB asked for a flow diagram about the cumulative effects for a more accurate representation of the cumulative severity. • Discussions took place regarding the ice slurry method as a refinement. The researcher agreed to consult with NACWO and NVS for borderline cases. • AWERB recommended having a clear age limit and discussions took place regarding the score sheet. <p>Additional discussion regarding differences in using anaesthetics (MS222 v benzocaine). The applicant is to revise their PPL and detailed feedback will be provided.</p>	Revision required	AWERB/2425/04
6.	12:10 (20 mins)	<p>General updates</p> <p><u>Establishment Licence updates</u> A new method of Schedule 1 was added onto the establishment licence regarding a better way of euthanised embryos.</p> <p><u>Standard Condition 18 reports</u> There have been four SC18 reports submitted to the HO since the last meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 x mouse had been found dead. • 2x mice had been found dead at the end of an experiment. • An aged mouse was found dead with no obvious cause. <p>A post-procedural animal was scheduled 1 due to distress.</p> <p><u>Compliance issues</u> There was one potential non-compliance reported where two mice died due to being trapped behind a food hopper. AWERB was informed about a working group examining our HO audit program. This is a large body of work gathering documentation together and file locations ready for an audit.</p> <p><u>Updates from Named Persons Meeting</u> Two BRF policies are being reviewed and will be sent to AWERB shortly for review.</p> <p>•Policy for maintaining protected animals within Exeter University</p>		

- Policy for maintaining breeding colonies within Exeter University

The NPM also discussed methods for ensuring the welfare of “aged” animals are optimally managed.

Update from BSU Board meeting

There was no update because the BSU has not met throughout the summer. The next meeting will be held at the end of September.

Estates

The refurbishment of one of the rodent Facilities is progressing well, and the other facility has insecticide regime in place

Estate head confirmed retirement in two weeks and so AWERB will need to replace this member(ACTION)

CoC update

Members were updated on the Culture of Care committee meeting held yesterday. There has been the second CoC newsletter for BRF staff and this will be shared with AWERB members post meeting (ACTION).

Meeting the researcher sessions have been in progress for a couple of months and being received well by technical staff. These meetings provide a chance for researchers to meet the animal care teams.

There has been a second away day for animal care teams which was split into two half days, the first had a workshop with UAR on being able to talk about their work ‘down the pub’ which was well presented and challenged how people feel and public opinion. Positive Feedback was received from attendees. AWERB members suggested extending this workshop to post docs and possibly mixing animal care team with researchers.

Discussions on office space has had some progress.

NTCO update

Training and Reassessments

- Schedule 1 training and competency assessments - mice and fish
- Competency assessments and reassessments for IP administrations - mice
- Training SC administration – mice
- Refresher training and reassessment for brief general anaesthesia with recovery - mice
- Reassessment for tumour measurements nude mice - mice
- Training and competency assessment tunnel handling – mice
- Training and assessments taken place for transcardial perfusions - mice
- Competency assessments for protected embryo collection - mice
- Training and reassessment for blood sampling - fish
- Training and competency assessment for handling, restraint and blood sampling – bats
- Training and competency assessment for IV administrations - mice

PIL courses

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIL Practical session has been completed for 1 x rodent candidates PIL Practical to be completed at the end of the month 1 x fish candidate PIL practical sessions to be arranged for 2 x fish researchers in Cornwall. 2 more fish researchers booked in to a PIL course in October 3rd PIL refresher course has taken place last week at in Cornwall. <p><u>Other Courses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Function C course completed for non-licenced technicians August 2nd PM Practical training session for BSU technicians completed NACWO course taking place this week for the new rodent NACWO Lunch and learn session set up with the NVS and BSU techs to take place during the NVS October visit and will focus on mouse body condition scoring and the grimace scale. It will also be extended out to some of the researchers who are working with the aged mice. Lunch and learn for ARC technicians to be planned for NVS November Visit. UTG Trainers Day Bristol in September. Module KD course nearing the end of development, for non PILh that are euthanising animals via schedule 1, the course provides the legal, ethical, theoretical training before practical training starts - to be rolled out mid-October. <p><u>HOLC update</u></p> <p>AWERB role descriptors are currently being developed and these will be brought to AWERB at some point for all to review.</p> <p>Currently a new process is being developed when appointing new named persons.</p> <p>There is a HOLTIF meeting to be held in October and updates to AWERB will be provided.</p>		
7.	12:30 (5 Mins)	<p>3Rs initiatives/updates</p> <p>Updates included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is being done to provide a policy on Replacement alternatives to fin clipping, to use as a genotyping tool. Assessing rodent health status is being replaced by a biofilter instead of using live animals. Mimicking plants, so that mangrove killifish lay eggs in better place. Mortality records improved. Using rat playpens more often. 		
8.	12:35 (10 mins)	<p>Named Veterinary Surgeon's visit</p> <p>NVS gave verbal update of recent visit, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hector line is backcrossed and closely monitored due to the lymphosarcoma incident. Improvement in enrichment, more refined monitoring system and husbandry guide for killifish. Rat playpens are being used more. 40 x guppies were exported for research. Several checks took place to ensure their safety. 		
9.	12:45 (5 mins)	<p>Review of 2024/2025 Terms of Reference and Membership</p> <p>This item is to be carried over to next meeting.</p>	For review at next meeting	AWERB/2425/05 a,b
10.	12:50 (5 mins)	<p>Update on Chair's Action</p> <p>This item is to be carried over to next meeting.</p>		

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BOARD

11.	12:55 <i>(5 mins)</i>	Any Other Business None.		
12.	13:00	End		

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 22nd October 2024 Online