

## ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BOARD

A meeting of the AWERB was held at 11:00 on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025

**Location:**

Online

**Summary of actions**

Item	Action	Due
2	Update September 2025 minutes - Item 7 - requires edit. Change to 'one of the NVS' was removed from PEL'	September 2025

**Minutes**

	Agenda item	AWERB Decision	
1.	11:00 (10 mins) <b>Welcome and apologies</b> Apologies were noted.		
2.	11.10 (5 mins) <b>Minutes of meeting 23rd September 2025</b> Item 7 –requires edit. Change to ' <i>one of the NVS' was removed from PEL'</i> Minutes agreed as accurate ( <i>subject to minor change above</i> ), approved for publishing.	Approved	AWERB/2526/08
3.	<b>Matters Arising/Actions</b> No open actions apart from ongoing outstanding actions - Progressing with the consultation on the amendments proposed to the animal policies.		AWERB/2526/09
4.	<b>General Updates</b>  <u>Establishment Licence</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>delegate PELh attended the annual PELh conference</li> </ul> <u>Standard Condition 18 reports</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mortality rates following guppy fish tagging exceeded those anticipated in project licence. ASRU acknowledged correct reporting by SC18, advised no requirement for "Permission to remain in breach" report. PPL amendment to increase expected mortality rate in progress.</li> <li>One fish found deceased, three hours after experimental procedures. Burst swimming behaviour procedure took place a few hours prior to death.</li> <li>One aged mouse found deceased. Post-mortem examination revealed suspected tumour in the colon.</li> </ul>		AWERB/2526/10

- Mice developed digestive issues, not listed in the PPL adverse effects. HO request to remain in breach was granted and study finished within timeframe.
- A mouse exhibited unexpected lameness following injection and was euthanised. Routine welfare checks showed no prior signs of injury.

Compliance issues

Potential non-compliance incident, involving injury to fish during netting. Affected fish euthanised. The NACWO reassessed PIL holder's competency in netting procedures.

Named Persons Meeting October

- Discussions regarding expiring PPL and how to manage this – a short term PPL was suggested.
- Compassion fatigue workshop is taking place at the end of October.
- Upcoming posters for 3Rs symposium in December
- Updates on keep alive request.
- ZF imports issue – a national issue.
- Discussion over amendment consultation to non-ASPA animal policies and progress.
- NE Strategic Licence for the University.
- CPD discussion and ensuring fairness.
- E2PPL and PPL reviewing training being planned for NACWOS.
- Rehoming query sent to HO has had no response yet.

BSU Board meeting

- Meeting focus - rates and prospective rate increases

Estates

- Fumigation needs to be arranged pre-infestation of insects rather than post-infestation. AWERB should be supporting this as feeds into compliance and management requirements. Estates have emailed HoBRF to help with suggestions and provide further support on the use of pesticides.
- Estates are continuing to progress the heating pipework replacement in the fish facility room.
- The gas bottle system for the fish facility will be picked up with the Faculty Head at the beginning of November.
- LEVs within the rodent areas are being reviewed to ensure we have captured all assets for statutory compliance. Estates are collaborating with H&S team

	<p>to support a major piece of work around LEVs and how we process the maintenance and TExT reports.</p> <p><u>NTCO</u></p> <p>AWERB were updated via the training report, all training updates since the last meeting, which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-house practical training session held for fish NACWOs, focusing on intraperitoneal and subcutaneous injection techniques.</li> <li>• 3 Day mouse colony management course. Covered best practice Colony Management (CM) programme. Restricted to 20 delegates.</li> </ul> <p><u>HOLC</u></p> <p><u>Deviation review process for urgent amendments (For keeping alive/remain in breach amendments to be submitted within 14-day HO stipulation)</u></p> <p>Deviation process presented to AWERB to expedite review for urgent amendments was approved.</p> <p><u>Pre AWERB stages for New PPLs (for information)</u></p> <p>AWERB was informed on the input into new PPLs before they get to AWERB which includes early stage of engagement and providing information to the prospective PPL holder, and pre-review stage with input from named persons and biostatistician.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended recent ASC AWERB hub focusing on rehoming</li> <li>• HOLC recently disseminated report from ASC on Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Home Office Retrospective Assessments (RAs) commissioned by the HO –ASC report based on findings from analysing NTS/RAs but also feedback received from establishments (our AWERB fed back on this at the time)</li> <li>• HOLC summarised findings and highlighted recommendations such as:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ensure Lay members of AWERB review NTS and RAs (with a suggestion that establishment should have to tick to confirm this has happened with HO submissions)</li> <li>○ failure to complete RAs should be investigated by the HO and noted as a minor concern in the audit report</li> <li>○ Support applicants with readability and 3Rs</li> <li>○ End of PPL reviews - encourage reflective practice and sharing of lessons learned</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Approved</i></p>	<p>AWERB/2526/11</p> <p>AWERB/2526/12</p> <p>AWERB/2526/13</p>
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5.	11:15 (10 mins)	<p><b>Named Veterinary Surgeon’s visit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Positive vet visit with a PILC practical assessment and meeting with a researcher to discuss their PPL application.</li> <li>● Time spent in rodent facility to discuss ongoing care and welfare with technical team.</li> <li>● Rodent facility’s quarterly health screening results in September first to be completed without sentinel animals. Rodent facility now has no sentinels having completed 6 month trial of the REPLACE system using environmental health monitoring which is a great refinement. Screening came back clear.</li> <li>● Some CD18 reports and NC across all species, some amendments to PPLs as a result. This reflects the level of activity, vigilance of the team, and openness rather than any concern of increasing errors.</li> <li>● Possibility of previously discussed PPL not renewed before the current PPL expires. Discussions are on-going about this.</li> </ul>		
6.	11:25 (20 mins)	<p><b>Mid-Term Review</b>  <u>AWERB 2526 14 PPL mid-term form was reviewed by AWERB.</u></p> <p>Discussion summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Discussion around number of animals used. Clarification of reasoning needed.</li> <li>● Lack of accessibility in understanding of the review was discussed. Members agreed review should be a standalone document and accessible for all. Lay member to give written feedback and ask applicant for a more lay report if needed going forward.</li> </ul> <p>Changes needed before it can be endorsed.</p> <p><u>AWERB 2526 15 mid-term form was reviewed by AWERB.</u></p> <p>Discussion summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● AWERB praised very thorough and well written mid-term review form.</li> <li>● Discussion around EVO method and whether this will become publicly available. Applicant confirmed information will become open source once published.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Revisions required</i></p>	<p><i>Endorsed subject to minor revisions</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lay member asked for clarification on what the Xiphorphorus genus is.</li> </ul> <p>Endorsed with condition that minor changes to be addressed</p> <p>It was raised that the mid-term reports should be fed into the 3Rs reporting to capture any relevant 3Rs achievements.</p>		
7.	11:45 <i>(5 mins)</i>	<p><b><u>3Rs initiatives/updates</u></b> Next named persons meeting is in December. <b><u>3R's subgroup</u></b> Delay on communications. 3R's group meeting on hold until survey sent out and results are back.</p> <p><b><u>Sharing best practice</u></b> Successful Zebrafish meeting last month. 150 delegates. Discussed zebrafish issues, genotyping, differing techniques, and reproducibility.</p>		AWERB/2526/14 AWERB/2526/15
8.	11:50 <i>(10 mins)</i>	<p><b>Update on Chair's Action</b></p> <p><b>ASPA regulated licences</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2 x PPL amendments were endorsed</li> <li>○ A new PPL endorsed</li> </ul> <p>A few other PPLs in review still.</p> <p><b>Non-ASPA</b> Overseas project was reviewed by AWERB sub-group received AWERB endorsement to support REC approval.</p>		
9.	12:00	<b>End</b>		

**Date of next meeting:**

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2025. Online