

# MINUTES OF THE [REDACTED] ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Held 18th February [REDACTED] 2019 at 2.00pm  
[REDACTED]

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## 1.0 Minutes of last AWERB meeting

Accepted as a true record of the meeting.

## 2.0 Matters arising

- Consider requesting project licence applicants to respond to review comments in advance of AWERB and then present at the relevant meeting to assist with AWERB review.

## 3.0 Licences submitted to Home Office since last AWERB meeting :

18-01 submitted as a final version.

## 4.0 PPL applicants presenting project work

### Proposed new PPL application

The applicant gave a short presentation of the work related to the proposed PPL application, which will investigate [REDACTED] as a diagnostic method for cancer. Using apheresis equipment and techniques relevant to human medicine necessitates the use of pigs as a model, due to their large size and the physiological similarities with humans. Initially this work will focus on non-recovery models and if successful, an amendment to an existing PPL will be required to recover animals post-procedure.

### Comments:

- The potential for clotting during apheresis was discussed. It was noted that heparinisation or the use of citrate will be required to prevent this occurring.

### PPL application PL 09-19

The applicant gave a short presentation on the work of the application of which the overall aim is to reduce mortality in neonatal lambs by studying the biological determinants of mortality, morbidity and antibiotic use in sheep. The applicant explained that a number of steps have been used to address the 3Rs including incorporating data collection within the framework of an existing commercial flock and the use of a single blood sample to provide data on a range of parameters.

### Comments:

- Clarification on why only 5% of lambs are to be sampled at birth: this is required to confirm existing baseline (published data) to show antibody levels at birth.
- Licence term: it was clarified that this should be a 3 year licence.
- Blood sampling: amended following comments to have the wording "8-24hours".
- Revised wording on reduction has been added to the relevant section in consultation with a veterinary epidemiologist.

### Amendment application A18-19

This amendment proposed to extend existing experience with lung-directed delivery of lentiviral vectors in adult sheep, to neonatal pigs.

Comments:

Age of piglets: minimum age of piglets would be 4 weeks as animals would require to be weaned before study could commence.

**5.0 PPL review**

**5.1 New PPL application – 19-01 (PL10-19)**

This PPL application relates to research into nutrition in cattle and continues work already carried out under a current project licence due to expire in May 2019.

Approved:

**5.2 New PPL application – 19-02 (PL8-19)**

The application was approved subject to the following points:

- **Re-use:** It was clarified that re-use will be requested on this licence. It was noted that this was not permitted under the temporary bridging licence.
- **Sub-cutaneous injections:** Clarification required as to whether sub-cutaneous injection can replace the use of IM injections in this licence.

**Outcome:** approved subject to the clarification of these points

**5.3. Amendment application: A19-01 (A18-19)**

It was noted that this amendment required full AWERB review due to addition of a novel species (pig). The committee were happy to approve this amendment application subject to the following points being addressed:

- Revise the age of the pigs to ensure that these are used post-weaning.
- Consider how animals will be managed post-surgery and how re-introduction with litter mates will be managed. For example it should be established whether single housing is required and available.

**Outcome:** approved subject to the clarification of these points

**6.0 Animal work Abroad AWERB approval**

OS 3-19: approved

OS4-19: approved

**7.0 Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care**

**7.1 Poultry enrichment:** following the last home office visit further enrichment should be considered. This will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting and a visit to the poultry facility will be arranged for AWERB members going forward. Action: Poultry visit by AWERB completed 25/02/19

**8.0 ASC:** New members for Animals in Science Committee (ASC): noted that applications for new members have been requested due to the resignation of existing members.

**9.0. Statistics and experimental design:** no report tabled

**8.0 NVS update**

- The enrichment for poultry methods are ongoing and include a number of options including perching.

- The [REDACTED] is going well and the 4<sup>th</sup> study is underway, data analysis of the studies should be available shortly.
- Considering a 3Rs project for a student to consider enrichment within the poultry facility.
- Visit to poultry facilities: to be arranged but will require two specific groups, potential dates to be circulated shortly **Action [REDACTED] (complete) visit 25/2/19**
- Visit to the WTCCLA to be arranged with suitable dates. **Action [REDACTED] (ongoing) visit postponed to be re-organised.**

#### 10.0 NTCO update

- Standardisation of training underway at [REDACTED] Useful meetings have been held with poultry users.

#### 11.0 PEL Holder update ([REDACTED])

- Nothing impacting [REDACTED]

#### 12.0 Reports from Facilities

##### Large Animal Facilities

- [REDACTED] -a review of blood sampling for diagnostic purposes is underway in discussion with the home office. **Action:** consider internal policy for this process and consult with home office inspectorate. [REDACTED] committee should also be consulted in relation to this work.
- [REDACTED]: some issues with the preparation of the construct for this work have delayed progress.

##### [REDACTED] )-

- Enrichment is the main priority at the moment within the facility. This includes a number of novel methods for example the use of points of interest for the birds within the facility.
- Bulk feed silos are back in operation.
- Hatching chicks will soon be introduced to a positive pressure incubator to prevent infection with Mycoplasma. These birds will be raised in an incubator to the age of sexual maturity.

##### [REDACTED] )-

- Health status being obtained at the moment to allow exporting of poultry (eggs and chicks)
- Completed the health screen on the SPF flock: low titre for FEB in one bird but repeat sampling being completed.
- Primordial germ cell transfers: working with vets to ensure that progress is made in this area.

##### Chick Embryo Room –

No new issues to report.

##### Aquaculture

- No report available.

#### 13.0 Any Other Business

- The committee were shown a short clip from a recent news item depicting the production of novel drugs within genetically altered poultry.
- The committee were reminded of the invitation from [REDACTED] to consider joining the RCVS ethics review panel.

**14.0 Date of next meeting:**

AWERB Thursday 18th April 2019, 2.00pm, [REDACTED]