



The Roslin Institute Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body

Monday June 26th 2023 Roslin [REDACTED] /Microsoft Teams Hybrid option
Minutes

1. Attendance and apologies.

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Presentation [REDACTED]: the committee heard an excellent presentation on behavioural training for pigs, the presentation also detailed the enrichments which have been used in these studies. Observations show that pigs enjoy enrichments but the higher value enrichments include the use of food. It was noted that once habituated to humans pigs very much enjoy human contact and will regularly seek this out.

Observations include:

- Human contact is enjoyed but once habituated may increase demand for this contact.
- Food treats are of higher value
- Refinements to sampling via vascular access ports which has been assisted by these enrichment methods.
- Some pigs have been more responsive than others to these enrichments.
- Pigs have been on site for several weeks and noted that this has really assisted with reducing the time taken for techniques which is excellent.

2. Minutes of last meeting:

The AWERB committee minutes were accepted as true record of the previous meeting that took place on the 24th April

3. Matters arising/Action points

- Nested refinement studies: Consideration to be given to adding a form of words as a starting point for inclusion in relevant licences: ACTION: circulate draft wording when available.

4. BVS Director update:

- Conference 28th September: [Conference 28th September: Natural Behaviour and Welfare of Farm Animal Species | The University of Edinburgh](#) speakers confirmed. This will be held at Roslin.
- Sustainability: met with the sustainability and social responsibility group at the University to determine how we can improve sustainability. Have identified the replacement of air handling units at Roslin as an area for improvement, potential funding from this group may be possible. Considering recycling of steam and dirty bedding to produce energy and the use of a new rodent alkaline hydrolysis system.
- Facility newsletters circulated to PIs.
- Roadshows: links circulated, requests for those not attending in person to view the recording.

- Replacements: this will be the focus for the coming year, some good replacements already identified, symposium to be held in 2024.

5. **Named Persons Update:**

6. **NVS update:**

- **LA:** [REDACTED]. Some questions raised about the attrition rate, which can result from either the ineffectiveness or severity of injury. Studies run in parallel in [REDACTED] and analysis of data shows comparable attrition rate at both sites, further data to follow. The PPL holder will present to AWERB at a later date to discuss these issues and present details of work which has been accepted for clinical trials.

- [REDACTED]

- New NVS: joining us in August which is very good news.

7. **NTCO update:**

- Running an additional LA course for 3 people.
- Accreditation of fish course will occur at the end of June. This module has now moved online. Accreditation (interim) has already been received for the other courses and full approval should be received shortly. All courses have been moved to [REDACTED]
- Home office training and accreditation board: attended the meeting, changes at the moment should not impact us at the moment.
- EU legislation: any references are now going through parliament to be removed from the act.
- CPD: home office are looking at this currently for those working with animals.

8. **PEL Holder update:** none tabled.

9. **Edinburgh AWERB report:**

- **Licensing:** the last meeting at the end of May considered 5 PPLs and the meeting of 27/6/23 will consider 4 applications. Amendments similarly have been busy and over both committees, we have now considered 58 amendments this year.
- **Roadshows:** 9th May 224 attendees, 18th May 179. Recording has been circulated and licence holders unable to attend the roadshow have been asked to confirm when this has been viewed.

10. **Reports from Facilities**

- [REDACTED] remains very busy, scheduling work up to 6 months in advance. [REDACTED] studies currently going well with no issues observed and researchers very complimentary about both the facility and the support in the form of researchers/anaesthesia group ([REDACTED]). This has been fed back. [REDACTED] study, using refinements has meant that all animals can be used in studies which is excellent. [REDACTED]

- **Poultry** :White leghorn: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Additional birds hatched to determine if this issue has now been resolved. A number of projects are ongoing within the facilities including those to look at enrichments. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Staffing is good, although one person is on long term sick.
- **Cryopreservation**: very good progress with [REDACTED] lines already completed. Still reviewing other lines in terms of cryopreservation and reviewing stocks of animals, some lines [REDACTED] are also being cryopreserved and again very good progress.
- **Chick embryo room** [REDACTED]: no report.
- **Aquaculture Facility** [REDACTED]
 1. repairs being conducted for condensation, engineers are currently looking at this.
 2. Monitoring: IAT currently looking at the issues around monitoring the fish in terms of observations.
 3. A population of trout have been brought into the facility, currently not under procedure. More work needed before regulated work can be carried out.

11. Ethics, 3Rs and the culture of care:

- Requests for tissue sharing: Noted that it would be very helpful if a system could be established to record the extent of tissue sharing from post mortem animals etc. [REDACTED] will produce a form for completion, to facilitate collation of this information with wording to acknowledge the source of the tissues. This form will also acknowledge that appropriate health and safety and biohazard safety measures are carried out appropriately. Noted that although ethical review is not needed for this, it is important to obtain this information and review what the tissues are being used for.

12. Project Licences *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

PL16-23: [REDACTED]

13. Project Licence amendments *submitted* to Home Office since the last AWERB meeting

A38-23: [REDACTED]

14. Presentations:

PPL renewal ([REDACTED] the committee heard an excellent presentation in relation to this renewal application. This also included a review of the success under the current PPL. 31 publications have arisen from this current application which is an excellent output. It was noted that the additional availability for [REDACTED] had been removed as it had never been used in the last application.

Questions: The committee were pleased to hear about the replacement strategies (eg organoid systems). It was difficult however to determine if the reduced numbers are a direct result of these in-vitro models. Noted that the reduction in numbers is also likely to be due to refinements as opposed to replacements at this stage however this is still very encouraging.

Outcome: approved.

PPL transfer: [REDACTED] approved.

15. New PPL applications under consideration by the AWERB

PL23-23 [REDACTED]: Approved for submission to the home office: no further comments

16. PPL amendments:

A43-23 [REDACTED] PPL amendment: [REDACTED] sub-committee approval.

17. Presentation: Home Office Change program update:

Notes:

1. **Bridging ways of working** : reform of the bridging ways of working programme remains paused (no change). AWERB to be updated when further information is available.
2. **Cosmetic testing**: Licence applications involving cosmetics no longer permitted (already circulated details of this).
3. **Compliance**: review of SC18 forms by ASRU has highlighted some potential issues relating to incorrect advice being given to PIL holders via named people, specifically NVs. Serious concerns raised from the community attending the meeting on this statement. The issue will be raised at the LAVA council
4. **SC18**: new form being piloted. Release to all establishments will occur tomorrow, feedback should be submitted by July, details to follow (again this was unexpected).
5. **Project Licensing review iterations**: whilst the average PPL iteration is 2.33, UoE are typically 1 iteration.
6. **Data**: ASRU noted that all statutory deadlines for PPLs were met although this was challenged during the call with examples given.
7. **SC18 response delays**: noted due to inspector sickness there have been no responses to any SC18s submitted since Jan/Feb and no communication from ASRU. Advised to contact compliance team if there is a pressing issue.
8. **Inspectors**: Two new inspectors appointed.
9. **SC18 advice note**: still with legal, ASRU noted that they should have managed expectations better.
10. **Aspel improvements**: looking at providing standard protocols on Aspel that can simply be added for example the standard breeding and maintenance protocols, other changes planned to be advised.

A.O.C.B:

[REDACTED]: discussion on this, development of a new device [REDACTED]. Although rare this syndrome, [REDACTED], can be fatal. [REDACTED]. The device under development has advantages over current treatments. Initial data needs to be expanded and as a result this study is planned. The animals will be schedule one culled and no regulated procedures required, tissue will be taken only at post-mortem.

Summary:

- Consider requesting that a statistician looks at this, if this has not been done already.
- Ask for more information on the numbers being used and if so increase/review numbers.
- **Outcome**: In the first instance the AWERB approves studies relying on tissue [REDACTED]. Noted that that this does imply approval for future studies. The approval relates only to studies involving study of tissues post-mortem and not for positioning of sensors in living animals. The animals concerned will not be used for anything else. They will only undergo schedule 1, with other tissues being made available through the tissue sharing scheme.

New member: [REDACTED], no issue raised to this

18. **Date of next meeting**: August 28th 2pm [REDACTED] Hybrid option via MS teams