



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 02/05/2023

The University of Edinburgh

Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986

Minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held 02/05/2023

Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome
2. See separate attendance log
3. Minutes of Meeting held on 28/03/2023: approved

4. **Presentation:** [REDACTED]
This is for information and will be discussed again by the committee at a later date.

The presenter updated the committee on [REDACTED] in teaching undergraduate students, including data on how other universities teach similar practicals

Committee Summary:

- Data from other universities is very useful
- The committee is pleased that the housing situation of the animals is much improved.
- Students preferences on tutorials should be considered.
- The issue of informed consent was raised – should students be made more fully aware of the source of the animal tissue?

Action points for presenter:

- Consider student feedback: this could include reviewing past comments or asking before/after future courses.
- Review processes taking into account actions for objections to the practical.
- Endeavour to undertake summer or honours project to compare potential [REDACTED] to replace [REDACTED]. This would use exiting [REDACTED] data. How many [REDACTED] would be needed to replace each [REDACTED]
- Investigate potential for running a simulation before or after or at the same time as the practical
- Update the report to reflect what has been presented., send it back to AWERB so that we can discuss.

The AWERB committee is happy for this practical to continue for 2023-24, whilst points above are actioned. Further discussion at a future AWERB is scheduled for later in the year.

5a Project licences under consideration:

PL13-23 (resubmission)

The PPL will be returned to a future AWERB as many of the comments from the previous review have not been actioned.



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 02/05/2023

Action point Chair will write to applicant to request a point-by-point rebuttal of each of the AWERB comments and cc the line manager.

PL16-23 PPL application

Commercial licence renewal aiming to develop novel therapeutics. The committee were happy to approve the application subject to addressing the comments detailed below:

- One protocol mentions [REDACTED] but it's not clear how long animals would be kept at this weight loss, needs clarification.
- Some queries about whether the proposed severity is correct for some of the protocols.
- [REDACTED] humane endpoints should be tightened to ensure that moderate severity is appropriate.
- NTS needs to define important terms at the start but otherwise fine.

PL17-23 PPL application

The committee approves the application subject to revision of the following points:

- NMBA usage is not suitably scientifically justified.
- [REDACTED] needs to specify appropriate controls, give more detail on the sub-optimal dosing regime. Also, humane endpoints could use more detail. Scoring for humane endpoints using something like a grip strength test may not be suitable here, scoring methods should be more observational.
- Concern over method of anaesthesia in neonates.

5b. Amendments – for consideration by full committee:

PPL transfer: A35-23

The committee has approved the transfer. The proposed PPLh is currently the main user of the licence, so the transfer is logical and appropriate. Applicant has completed all mandatory training.

Applications submitted and considered by the amendment Sub-Committee

Approved:

A19-23 [REDACTED] A20-23 [REDACTED], A22-23 [REDACTED] A25-23 [REDACTED] A27-23 [REDACTED]



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 02/05/2023

Updates to the AWERB:

6. BVS director update to the committee

- New facility forum newsletter will be released this month.
- [REDACTED] scientist's needs have been discussed and business case for new unit will be prepared.
- Annual statistics for animal usage: recommend that the HO build relationships with the PELh. May mean that future audits will request numbers from the PELh as well as from the PPLh.

7. BVS Deputy director update to the committee

- Recruitment: Three grade 3 technicians recruited this month
- Empty [REDACTED] post has been filled
- Advertising for a grade 4 aquatic tech.
- Temporary staff have started in one facility, with the hope they will become permanent.
- Fumigation of [REDACTED] was supposed to happen in April however this has been postponed to 22nd May
- 15-21 May is mental health awareness week, focus on anxiety. a newsletter is being prepared to make everyone aware. It points towards support the university and chaplaincy offers. Yoga class will also be offered. Chaplaincy will do workshop on impact without burnout on 21st June

8. NVS update to the committee

- Several SC18s submitted for individual animals
- On one licence two animals experienced [REDACTED] but this wasn't mentioned as possible adverse effect on the PPL so was submitted as SC18.
- Four rats have been approved by HO to be rehomed. Individuals have been identified and animals and paperwork are being finalised. The processes are in pilot phase but rehoming will become more of a regular occurrence.

7. NACWO update to the committee

- Training in flexible gavage with users, particularly important post pandemic when some users stopped doing practical work.
- Factsheet on care of spiny mice in preparation to ensure continuity of high quality care

8. NTCO update to the committee

- Full NACWO training for ten grade 5 technicians last week to help with understanding over the NACWO role and to give the grade 5s more confidence in their roles. Course will be repeated later in the year for others
- There have been a number of incidences [REDACTED], all staff and users will undergo training and reassessment on the use [REDACTED] using new SOPs before the end of June.

9. HOLC update to the committee

- Annual roadshows will be run on Teams on 9th and 18th May. All researchers PPLh and PILh have been informed about this. One of the slots will be a focus on importance of lay members of the AWERB committee.



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Board (AWERB) Minutes 02/05/2023

- 22 new and amended PPLS currently in the ASPeL system. Some amendments take up to 40 working days now, which is longer than desired. There is no official guidance in ASPA on how long they should take but the HO appear to be using 40 working days
- Three applications in the last few weeks have received comments from Home Office Inspectors on the use of Morris Water maze. The committee noted that there are clear differences between the forced swim test and Morris water maze (and between the use of rats and mice) in these techniques. The use of the Paddling pool maze has been suggested as a refinement by the HO.

10. BVS Deputy Director (Vets/home office) Roslin AWERB report

- The Roslin AWERB committee heard a presentation on nested refinement studies. i.e. refinement of anaesthesia protocols used in veterinary procedures.
- Roslin is looking at new environmental enrichment practises and extra staff training to have a more diverse and varied environment for the large animals.

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11. Retrospective review [REDACTED]

This licence was revoked early as the PPLh left to take up another appointment. No animals were recruited to the licence whilst in place therefore the report was for information only.

13. A.O.C.B

[REDACTED] Members of the committee invited to view the [REDACTED] which is now available to view over live stream. The committee discussed the topic of live streaming or a short video of [REDACTED] [REDACTED] being more widely available in the future

[Date of next meeting](#) 30th May 2023 MS teams 10am