

UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BOARD

A meeting of the AWERB was held at 11:00 on Tuesday 18th June 2024

Location:

online

Summary of actions

Item	Action	Due
8	For relevant overarching Policies to be updated regarding animal materials	ongoing
11	To add 3Rs as standing agenda.	July 2024

Minutes

		Agenda item	AWERB Decision	
1.	11:00 (10 mins)	Welcome and apologies The Chair welcomed members and apologies were noted.		
2.		Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2024 Agreed as accurate but to change 'CDP' to 'CPD'. Approved for publishing.	APPROVED	AWERB/2324/40
3.		Matters Arising/Actions The action to meet new member has been completed, and they will be joining AWERB as of July meeting. 3Rs and Compliance Policies are still being developed. Lab system query will be actioned as part of the system operational discussions and AWERB agreed for this to be completed and dealt with outside meeting. Still ongoing discussion about assessing suitability of new researchers to work in the animal facilities at recruitment stage.		AWERB/2324/41
4.	11:10 (30 mins)	General updates <u>Establishment Licence updates</u> none <u>Standard Condition 18 reports</u> There have been four SC18 reports sent to the HO since the last meeting. 2 x mice died during IV administration and 1 euthanised due to seizure post administration, this has been discussed with NVS. 1x Fish was found to have died with no obvious cause and no obvious health issues. 1x mouse was found to have died, with no obvious cause and no obvious health issues. 1 x fish was euthanised due to dislodged cannula, which was discussed with NVS. <u>Compliance issues</u> none <u>Updates from Named Persons Meeting</u> A Study Request Form (SRF) has now been introduced for wildlife work (for ASPA related studies), which brings it inline with a SRF requirement for all other studies in the Establishment. Communication will be sent out about this after the current busy fieldwork season. This will enable discussion between PPL holder, NACWO and NVS prior to the prospective work being carried out and will be completed annually. This also states that NVS/NACWO are notified as part of POLE notification process. 3Rs achievements include; - Reduction to blood sampling,		

		○ continuing reduction in guppy numbers <u>Update from BSU Board meeting</u> Nothing to report as there has not been a meeting since the last AWERB. Movement of facilities ongoing. <u>Estates</u> Work ongoing with moving departments/facilities as mentioned. <u>CoC update</u> There has been CoC management meetings with agreements to do various activities, such as: • Regular newsletter for COC to staff • Regular facility tours • Communication handbook • 6 monthly COC away day • Working group • Engaging researchers and animal care staff together • BRF user meetings • Seminars where PI's meet the BRF technical staff and present their work. • Techs in their own projects to disseminate at events such as internal conferences and external events such as the IAT conference. • Future themes to explore are; compassion fatigue, wellbeing, new researchers work in facilities for a day, routes for raising concerns. The lay member was delighted to hear such an extensive range of activities for CoC. Discussion took place around researchers acknowledging and crediting tech staff in publications. <u>NTCO update</u> Training and Reassessments • Schedule 1 competency assessment - mice and fish • Competency assessments for IP administrations - mice • Reassessment in IV administration - mice • Training for IV administrations - mice • Competency assessments for husbandry tasks - mice • Handling training - mice • Competency assessment for blood sampling - wild birds • Handling and restraint training – wild birds • Mouse PM training for the BSU technicians PIL Refresher planned for September. A save the date notification to be sent shortly. Local Module Training to be held, date TBC. AWERB Workshop in July. • HOLC update (JP) It has been quiet in terms of direct HO updates but there was communication sent by ASRU to acknowledge receipt of Standard Condition 18 (SC18) notifications submitted pre–December 2023 ONLY and confirms that no further action will be taken in relation to these notifications at this time. The NIO and HOLC completed the annual survey on the Concordat on Openness on Animal Research recently which signatories must do.		
5.	11:40 (10 mins)	Named Veterinary Surgeon's visit (verbal update) The NVS gave a verbal update on the most recent all facility visit, including looking at health conditions, skin and eye conditions, breeding plans, running environmental health screening, sc18, ppl amendments and procedural advice.		

6.	11:50 (20 mins)	Authority of Named Persons Discussion took place on the named persons legal role and their responsibility to uphold ASPA/3rs and for this to be recognised within the University. Sometimes advice and authority are challenged which makes the role difficult to manage. Ideas were discussed as to how this can be better supported such as a CoC piece respecting mutual knowledge and good relationships being built. Suggestion of this topic being included in PIL training and also face to face meetings more frequently between NVS and PPL/PIL holders. Should be raised at BSU board. Thanks were given to members for ideas and Head of BS will form a working group to progress this, Chair happy to provide support if required. Discussion took place as to the research misconduct process.		
7.	12:10 (10 mins)	Facility visit The Lay member provided update on the recent Cornwall visit by The Chair, Lay member, HOLC and Head of BS. A massive thank you was given to the NACWO who gave up a lot of their time to show everyone around. It was good to see in person and visually see the tagged fish for example.		
8.	12:20 (10 mins)	Non-regulated research, definition of tissue and species of concern It was raised that due to recently working through various complex research issues and in terms of ethical review process for non-regulated work (animal materials), areas of policy will need updating such as definition of tissue, the meaning of commercially sourced and species that would be of concern. AWERB agreed that they were happy that when the policies are updated, definitions are made clearer and were also happy for the exemption of 'commercially sourced' be removed, to mitigate ambiguity and ensure it is better investigated through ethical review. It also highlighted potential onboarding issues. Action: For relevant overarching policies to be updated regarding animal materials.		
9.	12:30 (15 mins)	End of PPL Review AWERB reviewed AWERB/2324/42a-d: <i>HO Retrospective Assessment</i> <i>AWERB End of PPL Form</i> <i>Production of Antibodies Retrospective Assessment</i> <i>Publications</i> AWERB thought the information provided showed the large amount of work undertaken within this PPL and high output achieved. Congratulations to the group for this and describing the amount of communication between the PPLh, PILs and Named persons over the lifetime of the PPL. There have been significant refinements within the work, especially within b&m of some of the GA lines and improvements to the welfare. AWERB were happy to endorse.	ENDORSED	AWERB/2324/42 a-d
10.	12:45 (5 mins)	Update on Chair's Action <u>Regulated</u> After going through AWERB review process, one new PPL and four amendments have been endorsed by chairs action since the last meeting and are now with the HO for evaluation <u>Non-regulated</u> Overseas project in review process still.		

11.	12:50 (10 mins)	Any Other Business There was a launch of the 3Hs webinar in March and a recording of this is available on website. It was raised as to whether AWERB are happy for a standing agenda item on the 3Rs which would be an open item for all to input and include shaping 3RS strategy which the NIO/NC3Rs can provide input for. AWERB agreed. It was also suggested that PPL holders could provide a few minutes on their 3Rs initiatives, especially those with NC3Rs grants, and regarding replacement. Action: add 3Rs as standing agenda. It was raised again whether tech staff can attend AWERB which could help them with development on into to NACWO roles. AWERB agreed.		
12.	13:00	End		

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 23rd July 2024 Online