
Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 15 December 2016 at 1pm in Camden Council Room Videolinked to Hawkshead Council Room

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2016 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2 PROJECT LICENCE PRESENTATION

A new project licence that aimed to advance knowledge to improve protective vaccination against widespread respiratory disease in the pig was discussed. The focus was to be able to control respiratory infections in pigs with minimised use of antibiotics.

Bacterial pathogens of the respiratory tract represented a huge economic and welfare burden for the global pig producing industry. This project would focus on vaccine development for two of the major respiratory bacterial pathogens associated with the pig. For a vaccine to be licensed in the EU, the product must be shown to be both safe and efficacious. From experiments involving a relatively small number of experimental pigs, data would be generated which could be of value in the control of disease in unlimited numbers of farm animals.

The project licence was discussed in detail and several changes suggested. Once these had been done, AWERB were content that the project licence be submitted to the Home Office.

3 PROJECT LICENCE PRESENTATION

A new project licence which was designed to support the progression of test substance(s) along the drug development pathway to control pain was discussed.

The main benefit of this licence would be the identification of new substances for clinical development, leading in the long term, to the identification of innovative therapies for the treatment of pain in man.

The project licence holder advised of the steps that were taken to decide whether a piece of work should be undertaken.

AWERB advised that there were still some points within the project licence that needed clarity which would be discussed separately between the project licence holder and AWERB.

4 SHEEP AND PONIES FOR ANATOMY CLASSES

A request had been received for approval of use of ponies and sheep teaching for the next term. The request to use sheep was approved and that for use of ponies, after discussion, was declined.

5 DOG SOCIALISATION PROGRAMME

The emphasis of the dog socialisation programme should be on playing with and cuddling the dogs. Discussions would be held about recruiting 3rd year students to help with the socialisation programme. The expectation would be that they would sign up for the academic year to work with the dogs on a regular basis and so obtain experience of handling dogs.

6 REVIEW CURRENT HOME OFFICE CODES OF PRACTICE AND ADVICE NOTES

6.1 The “harm-benefit analysis process” advice note

This paper described the current process used by the Home Office to conduct a harm-benefit analysis during evaluation of a project licence application. This was the process of assessing the likely harms that the animals will experience and the likely benefits to be delivered and then determining whether the likely harms to animals are justified by the benefits likely to accrue.

The document was very informative, with a lot of it that could be used to provide as specific guidance on writing project licences:

- there was a flow chart setting out the process of applying for a project licence. This could be adapted to show the RVC process (such as the discussions with the NACWOs and AWERB etc).
- list of reasons why licences fail to be placed on the intranet
- Para 16: list of questions about the possible benefits of a PPL. This would be circulated to AWERB to review when asked to lead the questioning of a project licence holder, and also to PPL Holders when writing a PPL.
- Annex A (Assessment of Project Licence application) could be used by AWERB for when reviewing project licences as a formal summary of the discussions about a project licence. It would also act as a check list of the project licence holders experience and their track record. This would be completed by the NACWO. It was agreed that this would be trialled.
- There was a list of references in the guide that would be useful to obtain and put on the intranet for people to access.

The consensus was that AWERB were following the steps required, but that it needed to be done more systematically by following the guidance.

6.2 Rehoming and setting free of animals advice note review

This advice note provided information about the legal requirements relating to re-homing and setting free and advice on current good practice. The AWERB review had focussed on companion animals, equine and wild animals.

The RVC rehoming policy needed to be formalised to include a check list for each species on what was needed when making an assessment of whether to rehome an animal. A follow up of owners to see how they were coping would also be done. An information pack would also be put together for each pack.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled for 17 January 2017.