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**Minutes:** AWERB

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**Status:** Chair approved

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**Meeting held:** 05 September 2017 at 2pm in F82 Hawkshead videolinked to U5 Camden

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**Attendees:** 13 members present; 2 in attendance; 6 apologies sent.

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## 1 WELCOME

Attendees were welcomed to the first meeting of the new academic year.

## 2 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

### 2.1 Environmental Enrichment Working Group

It was reported that the environmental enrichment audit was well underway. Camden had already finished their audit.

At Hawkshead, two technicians were spearheading the audit that was taking place with the farm animals. The aim was to have the forms completed by the end of that week. There had been dialogue over what was classed as environmental enrichment and what was basic necessity. It was agreed that there were grey areas but these should all be included on the forms so they were recorded and could be discussed.

### 2.2 Sharing resources working group

A meeting had been held in June.

A query had been raised about large animal cadavers and whether they could be used for more purposes. Anatomy had advised that they did not often get cows or pig cadavers and so was happy for researchers to liaise with them when they were due to have cadavers to see if could be used in anatomy classes.

A sharing resource database had been set up to record what had been reused. It was also encouraging to see that *ad hoc* requests were being submitted via the sharing resource site. This was demonstrating that the system was encouraging communication between different groups.

Potential opportunities for further collaboration were discussed by AWERB that would benefit teaching at undergraduate and post-graduate level.

Discussions would also be held to see whether it was possible to increase collaboration in relation to sharing resources across the two sites.

### 2.3 Rodent Handling Group

The in-house trial of comparing the scooping and tunnel handling methods had now been completed. Using the tunnel handling method took double the amount of time than the scooping method. It was also necessary to physically remove the animal from the tunnel in order to closely examine them for

their health check. There were also biosecurity issues in relation to tunnels that were transferred between the cages, so environmental enrichment tunnels were more suitable. The technicians had found that the mice would not go into the tunnel if it did not have their smell on it. They had documented their trial for enrichment purposes.

The animal technicians had signed up to attend the NC3Rs mouse handling workshop on 27<sup>th</sup> September, with the focus on gaining practical advice and tips on using the refined handling techniques so they could be implemented in BSU.

The technicians have also sought advice to see how to gauge when a mouse was getting stressed and the best ways of combatting that.

### **3 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July were agreed to be an accurate record.

### **4 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **4.1 Analgesics**

It was confirmed that for BSU Camden, there was a designated person and also a deputy who were responsible for checking and signing off the drug stock book on Fridays.

For Hawkshead, a list of equipment and medications that should be available for veterinary use at HH had been provided. These were in the process of being ordered. They were also currently reviewing the non-controlled drugs procedures for stock checking and issuing. This would be combined with the GLP requirements for traceability.

#### **4.2 Item 3: BSU Camden**

The details of the temperature/humidity problems had been provided and had been raised at a subsequent Estates meeting.

#### **4.3 Item 4: Rodent Health Manual**

This was now finalised.

#### **4.4 Item 14: Animals used at Camden poster**

This was now at the printers.

### **5 MID TERM REVIEWS**

AWERB noted that there had been 3 mid term reviews.

#### **5.1 When to schedule mid-term reviews for project licences that featured model development**

For those project licences that involved model development it was agreed that a review of the project licence should be provided when the first stage of the project had been carried out so there was a check to see how the work was progressing and whether it was going to plan. It was agreed that whilst reviewing new project licences, these types of licences should be highlighted by the reviewers and that a request be made for an earlier project review as part of the approval process.

### **6 RETROSPECTIVE REVIEWS**

It was noted that since 2013, project licences that included severe procedures, were required by the Home Office to undergo a retrospective review. Effectively these needed to be completed 12 months prior to the end of the project licence so that they could inform any new project licence application.

AWERB noted the retrospective review for one project licence and approved that it be submitted to

the Home Office. In particular, they noted the scientific results that had been achieved under this project licence. They commented that work under this project licence had been very well managed by the licence holder.

AWERB noted a second retrospective review that had been done by a project licence holder that had secondary availability at the RVC.

## **7 NEW PROJECT LICENCES**

AWERB noted that 3 new project licences (including one with secondary availability) had been granted. project licence amendments

AWERB noted that 3 licences had been amended since the last meeting.

## **8 TRAINING RECORDS**

AWERB reviewed the latest list of training records. It was important to ensure that everyone that had a PIL had a training record.

## **9 IN HOUSE TRAINING FOR UPCOMING ACADEMIC YEAR**

A query was raised about what was planned for the forthcoming academic year for animal technicians and PIL holders.

The training should include:

- Training in wider aspect of ethics
- CPD and attendance at conferences
- In house programme of training
- Seminar series from researchers who do work in the BSUs about their work
- Interchange of technicians between Camden and Hawkshead to give them experience of working with different species and on different site and to build up a team approach.

It was noted that schedule 1 training workshops had been set up.

It was agreed that AWERB should receive information on training that had been provided and planned on a quarterly basis.

## **10 ASSESSORS**

The current assessors list was noted.

## **11 SCHEDULE 1 LIST**

This list was reviewed. It was noted the list was in the process of being updated. Once done, the list would be placed on the BSU shared drive. This would be used as the master copy for updating.

Some people were due for reassessment so a series of workshops would be arranged.

## **12 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

AWERB were reminded that if they came across information (for example at conferences) then it would be useful to share it. There was now a forum on sharepoint that could be used for sharing news items.

## **13 ESTATES ISSUES**

### **13.1 BSU Camden**

#### **13.1.1 Redecoration**

The next stage of redecoration at Camden would be happening soon.

### **13.2 BSU Hawkshead**

#### **13.2.1 Plant replacement**

The project to replace the plant in Hawkshead would start on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

#### **13.2.2 Pigeons**

There were still problems with pigeons in the barn. Netting needed to be put up. There were also wild pigeons roosting in the pigeon loft along with RVC pigeons. A method of how to keep these wild pigeons out needed to be found. Pigeon racing associations such as The Royal Pigeon Association would be approached to see how they handled this type of problem.

## **14 NVS REPORT**

### **14.1 Camden**

There were no welfare issues to report. There was a discussion about the ponies that had arrived back earlier than the start of term in order to be used for exam resists. It was agreed that behavioural assessments of the ponies should be taken to determine how they responded to living in the environment at Camden compared to their more standard lifestyle (grazing) at Hawkshead. A record should be kept about how easy they were to catch from the field at Hawkshead in order to transport them to Camden.

Secretary  
13 September 2017