
Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 25 April 2017 at 10am

1 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23 MARCH 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2017 were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting.

2 **PPL PRESENTATION**

A project licence had been circulated for amendment. The project licence had been invited to the meeting to run through the proposed amendment.

It was explained that when reviewing an amendment to a project licence, AWERB not only focussed on the requested amendment but could also make suggested improvements to protocols if it would result in improved welfare of the animals. After the project licence had responded to a series of questions, AWERB were content for the amendment to be submitted to the Home Office.

2.1 **Using animals in research: it's time to refine**

This was an article from [Pharmacology Matters \(April 2017\)](#) which covers refining techniques in animal research and encourages readers to think about these during experimental design and practice. Researchers would be encouraged to report the refinements that they use every day – big or small – and share good practice with the wider scientific community.

3 **COLLECTING ADDITIONAL DATA ON ANIMALS KILLED**

Once every 5 years institutions are required to provide additional information to the returns of the procedures. The RVC were required to collate this information for 2017:

- Total numbers of animals not already reported in the annual return of procedures: this requires animals bred for scientific purposes (at any time) and killed/died during 2017 to be counted.
- How many wild type animals of each species not used in procedures and not arising from breeding of genetically altered animals who are killed/died during 2017
- How many non-Genetically Altered Animals of each species were killed/died as a result of procedures for the creation of new lines of GA animals but were not reported in the relevant project licence 2017 return of procedures.
- For the whole year how many animals of each species were killed/died as a result of breeding and maintenance of established lines of GAA and not reported in the relevant project licence 2017 return of procedures.
- Details of tissue sampling methods used for genotyping of GA and wild type animals over the six months period between 1st July and 31 December 2017. All animals that are genotyped need to be included, irrespective of whether they are reported in the annual returns of procedures or not.
- Details of the efforts being made to refine tissue sampling techniques for genotyping.

The BSU Managers at both Hawkshead and Camden were reviewing the whole returns process and would make sure that their plans for collating the required data was aligned together.

4 STUDY REQUESTS

A study request had been received and approved.

5 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

5.1 Environmental Enrichment working group

The first meeting was being scheduled. The focus would be on carrying out an audit of current practices to see what was being done and what improvements could be made (so that these could be costed and prioritised). The aim was to provide a snap shot of current practice. AWERB were very supportive of this work. The Home Office Inspector was also keen to see that this be done.

5.2 Sharing of resources

A meeting was being scheduled for June to follow up with how people were finding using the site.

5.3 Rodent Handling Group

A meeting was scheduled for 8th May to design a study plan for looking at tunnel handling behavioural changes in rodents. Animal Technicians were currently training new users in the techniques outlined in the Rodent Handling Policy. Staff were also being re-trained to use appropriate handling (which encourages support of the mouse at all times).

6 ESTATES ISSUES

6.1 Camden

Communication had much improved with estates over the past few weeks.

6.2 Hawkshead

6.2.1 Replacement of plant in H60

Plans were being put in place for the replacement of the plant in H60. Work was scheduled to start in October. The specification was currently being costed and would go out for tender.

6.2.2 Fencing

A query was asked whether it was possible to divide up the fields to make them smaller, more easily managed and therefore more effective.

7 MID TERM REVIEW

7.1 PPL mid term review

AWERB were pleased that the suggestions to reduce the sample size of the numbers of animals used would be acted on by the project licence holder.

8 END OF PROJECT LICENCE REPORT

8.1 PPL end of project review

This was noted.

9 NVS REPORTS

9.1 Camden

During the recent NVS visit, animals had been in good health and condition.

9.2 Hawkshead

A request for volunteers to contribute to animal care needed in one large project would be circulated to final year students and veterinary nurses as well as placed on the intranet.

10 MATTERS ARISING

10.1 Updated training record

Instead of amending the training record, a reassessment sheet should be added to the training record. A proposed copy had been circulated for comment. It was agreed that some broad guidelines for how often reassessments were required should be added. A similar process was needed for project licence holders training records.

10.2 Item 4: Animals used at Camden

AWERB were very impressed with the poster that had been put together. They made a couple of suggestions for changes:

- “Vocalizations also extend to social awareness where cows alert each other of predators and unknown circumstances with different types of moos” – amend “predators” to “dangers”
- Include “do not feed the cows”
- Make it clearer that “training: from our trained staff at the RVC” actually referred to getting the cows used to humans so that they did not find it stressful in the future being round humans. Also to explain why it was beneficial for cows to receive a lot of handling compared to cows that weren’t handled.

Once the poster had been amended it would be forwarded to the Marketing and Communications Director with an explanation of what it was planned to be used for to make sure happy with it.