Royal Veterinary College
University of London

AWERB Summary Minutes: AWERB: PPL review meeting

Status: FINAL

Meeting held: Tuesday 18 February 2025 at 10am

Present: 14 plus two in attendance, two by invitation and 18 apologies

1 WELCOME

An observer was welcomed to the meeting.

2 NEW PPL FOR REVIEW: PRIMARY AVAILABILITY AT THE RVC

A Project Licence Holder (PPL Holder) and colleague were welcomed to the meeting. They were attending as they had a new project licence to submit to the Home Office. This was a much-shortened version of an existing licence, which currently had secondary availability at the RVC. As only a small proportion of work from that licence was carried out at the RVC, it had been decided that to ease things administratively, a licence only covering this work would be applied for.

The aims of the project would be to assess potential therapeutics on the central nervous system and neurological disorders. The pre-clinical data produced would help identify the best new drugs/therapies for progression into human clinical trials and potentially reduce the failure rate currently observed in clinics. Much of the work would involve tissue harvesting for the cell culture work.

The licence consisted of two protocols: a breeding and maintenance of genetically altered (GA) animals protocol and a PK/PD protocol to enable testing of compounds.

The following were the main summary points/queries raised:

- More emphasis/elaboration to be added to the licence on why this work was important.
- The statement that the approach being taken would ultimately reduce the numbers of animals needed to be reworded to clarify that this applied not only to this project but for future projects too.
- The 3Rs would be continually monitored during the project lifetime and modifications made if required.
- The option of using immortalised cell lines that are gene edited to produce the knockouts required for the drug testing would be investigated further. If this proved not to be an option, this information would be added to the licence along with an explanation why.
- The maximum volumes for the administration of substances needed to be adjusted as it was too high and based on dated guidance. It would be amended to be in line with more suitable guidance suggested by one of the NVS.

- A query was raised about why a rotating rod was required for the behavioural assessment. It was explained that it was possible that some of the compounds could cause motor impairment. The rotating rod was a standard method to assess this. The animals were able to get off the rod at any time.

- It was mentioned that the blood sampling would involve warming animals locally to dilate a vein. This would be done by using a warming box up to 37°. An animal's tail would be placed in body temperature water, until the vein could be seen.

The PPL Holder and her colleague were thanked for attending the meeting. They would make the recommended changes and then the revised project licence would be circulated for a final e-mail review.

3 **MINUTES**

The following minutes were approved:

- 15 January 2025
- 21 January 2025
- 05 February 2025

4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

This was scheduled for 19th March at 10am.

Secretary
28 April 2025