
Minutes: AWERB summary minutes

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: Wednesday 22 February 2022 at 10am via MS Teams

Attendees: 14 plus 1 in attendance, 2 by invitation and 2 apologies

1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the meeting held on 09 February 2022 were confirmed as an accurate record.

2 TEACHING ANIMALS AT CAMDEN

Following discussions held at the AWERB meeting on 12 January 2022, Senior Management had been invited to this meeting so that the issues that had been raised at that meeting and a subsequent meeting in relation to the teaching animals at Camden, could be discussed with them.

There were several issues that needed to be considered:

- The overall suitability of accommodating the large animal teaching in Camden and whether there were other options in terms of species being used.
- The welfare of the large animals during their time in Camden.
- The hard ground in the yard and uneven surfaces posing a welfare issue to the animals, such as slipping.
- Safety: during routine checks of the areas where the large animals walked, reports of broken bottles and glass having been found.

AWERB were committed to finding a solution going forward in order to maintain the high quality of the teaching being offered by the RVC. They did not want to impede the teaching or stop the teaching of large animal handling in any way. But there was a need to find solutions and options that were better for both health and safety reasons, animal welfare and for the teaching classes.

Possible solutions included:

- Rotating the animals more frequently between the two campuses
- Having younger/smaller animals as they would pose less of health and safety risk to the people that were handling them.
- Using alternative animals such as older dairy goats to replace the ponies, as they would be more suited to the environment.
- Seeing what options there were to improve the yard and space available.
- Moving the horse teaching to Hawkshead.
- Were there other horses/ponies in the London area that could be accessed for teaching purposes (such as riding schools), possibly by working in partnership with them?

It was agreed that the potential options needed to be looked into further and another meeting held.

3 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled for 08 March 2022.