
Minutes: AWERB summary minutes: Standing Agenda items meeting

Status: Final

Meeting held: Wednesday 6 April 2022 at 11am via MS Teams

Present:

12 plus 1 in attendance and 10 apologies

1 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2022 were agreed as an accurate record.

2 ACTION LOG

2.1 Item 4.1: Teaching Ponies (23 March 2022 meeting)

The teaching ponies were scheduled to return to Camden for the last time soon. There had been no final decision made about using goats for teaching purposes.

2.2 Item 4.4: Communicating the role of AWERB to PhD students (23 March 2022 meeting)

A different version of the presentation that was provided to PhD students on AWERB as part of their induction week had been located. This was in the process of being reviewed.

A query had been sent to one of the seminar organisers to see if a talk on AWERB was possible to be arranged.

2.3 Item 4.5: Air handling units at Camden (23 March 2022 meeting)

The engineers had finished their review of the air handling unit and BMS system and were in the process of compiling their report.

2.4 Item 4.7: End of PPL Report (23 March 2022 meeting)

The updated report had been reviewed and its contents noted.

2.5 Item 4.8: BSU Virtual Tour (23 March 2022 meeting)

A copy of the draft storyboard was being reviewed. Photos were starting to be taken.

2.6 Item 2: Tissue Sharing Requests (8 March 2022 meeting)

This was an ongoing project.

2.7 Item 5.8: Establishment Licence: updating the room names (08 March 2022 meeting)

A list of changes had been put together.

2.8 Item 3: Small-animal oriented clinicians on AWERB (30 November 2021 meeting)

There was now a small animals clinician rep on AWERB.

2.9 Item 8: AWERB Terms of Reference: Responsibility for the various groups of animals that were at the College (30 November 2021 meeting)

It had been agreed that input from the Ethics and Welfare Committee should be sought on which animals AWERB should have ethical oversight of in relation to wildlife.

3 NVS REPORT

3.1 Hawkshead

- Dog Unit: a bitch had whelped at the weekend. There had been 6 puppies born: 4 males and 2 females. The puppies were being hand fed as the mother was unable to release enough milk for them.
- Chickens: a condition 18 report had been submitted following the death of some chickens.
- Ponies: Seven new ponies were being delivered that afternoon. They would be going into strict isolation upon arrival.

3.2 Camden

The new Camden based NVS had completed her induction process.

4 NACWO REPORT

4.1 Camden

- A condition 18 report had been submitted on 4th April for a mouse that had been found dead. Nothing odd had been seen in the diagnostic results but the situation was being monitored.
- Ferret surgery: following the incident where one of the ferrets had not recovered following an anaesthetic surgery, the subsequent ferret surgery had gone well.
- Rodent supplier issues: Following the recent suspected pneumonia virus of mice in rats that had come from a supplier, the problems seemed to have been resolved so orders could be recommenced. Testing had been done in-house on potentially affected mice but the results had come back negative.

4.2 Hawkshead

There were no issues to report from Hawkshead.

5 ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE AMENDMENTS

The Establishment Licence had been amended to add the new NVS and NTCO.

6 STUDY REQUESTS

AWERB noted the 5 study requests that had been approved since the previous meeting. AWERB were updated on one study which if successful would enable a heart transplant to be done on a child who was urgently awaiting treatment. This really demonstrated how our work had a real impact on people's lives.

7 AWERB TERMS OF REFERENCE

AWERB reviewed several items of the terms of reference and confirmed that no changes were needed.

8 CONDITION 18 REPORTS

AWERB noted that a condition 18 report had been submitted to the Home Office in relation to a project that used broiler chickens. The deaths had been due to problems that were generally seen in broiler chickens rather than problems associated with the study. Checks had been done to make sure that the lighting and temperature measurements were appropriate and these had matched with

the RSPCA guidelines for lighting, temperature and humidity for broiler growth, so it didn't seem to be an environmental problem.

9 MID TERM PROJECT LICENCE REPORTS

Two mid term project licence reports and the subsequent AWERB comments were noted, including a suggestion that training was needed for both researchers and BSU staff in how to report severity as there had been minor discrepancies and differences in reporting. This would be raised at the next batch of BSU User group meetings.

Another area that was causing problems was interpreting what was in the project licences, in relation to optional and mandatory steps, with animals being placed onto protocols but not then going onto complete the mandatory steps or following the steps in sequence.

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled for 26th April at 9.30am