

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 16th July 2025, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 11 x members, 1 x observer	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved	
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (17 th June 2025)	
3.1	3.1 Pathogen present in breeding unit	Rederivation programme progressing well. Ongoing Complete – detailed in NACWO Report
3.2	3.2 Stress impact of fire alarms	
3.3	3.3 Refined handling preference	
4	Chair's Verbal Report	
4.1	Thanks to valued colleague who is leaving the Establishment.	
4.2	Discussion regarding the environment and protections.	
5	New PPL	
5.1	PPL.1July25 Aims: To advance understanding of how gut microbes influence the development of the immune system of chickens in order to identify, develop and evaluate interventions that could be used to improve the health, welfare and productivity of commercially reared poultry	Approved subject to minor changes

	<p>Harms: up to 3000 chickens, majority with mild effects. Administration of substances by spray or gavage, some blood and faecal sampling.</p> <p>Benefits: Chickens are the most common and intensively reared of all livestock. However, problems include: Infections with pathogenic gut bacteria resulting in the death of tens of millions of birds globally and foodborne pathogenic bacteria, including Salmonella and Campylobacter, are a major cause of enteric disease in humans.</p> <p>By advancing understanding of how the gut microbiome influence the development of the immune system this project aims to identify interventions that could be used to reduce losses during production, improve protection from common gut pathogens and therefore improve chicken welfare as well as reduce the risk of pathogenic bacteria entering the food chain.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routes of administration • Detail regarding statistical experimental design • Replacement opportunities and further discussion of current invitro screening techniques and practices • Terms of what type of service would be offered, discussion of partnership and publishing parameters • Discussion of suitability of rehoming animals • Supervision of future staff 	
6	<p>Named Persons Reports</p> <p>6.1 Named Veterinary Surgeon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No welfare concerns raised <p>6.2 Named Training and Competency Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of training record review report • Evidence of compliance with new 3Rs & Legislation section of records • Delivery of PIL training courses • Upcoming Trainers day event <p>6.3 Named Information Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in planning phase for GW4 3Rs event • New staff member within governance team • Work beginning for annual report • Fixes to public-facing webpages • Plans to update annual statistics and supplementary openness materials; discussion of trends in data 	

6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Openness signatory annual survey completed • Research paper submitted for publication and invitation to speak at national conference. <p>Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to welfare for ataxic animals • Rotations of different enrichment used • Clean colonies breeding thanks to rederivation programme • Breeding team and research community continue to work with tissue sharing network to drive Reduction • Handling animals have received novel enrichment designed by a member of the technical team • 3Hs training received for staff carrying out inductions. • New cryopreservation technique to be trialled for preservation of zebrafish lines • Facilities repaired at collaborative translational surgery site 	
7	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
7.1	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1-4 AWERB approved: 1 - 4 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB did not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
7.1.1	UINs to note:	
7.2	<p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 9 AWERB approved: 1 - 9 AWERB approved pending clarifications: AWERB not yet approved:</p>	Secretary to inform
7.2.1	VINs to note:	
7.3	<p>Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments</p> <p>VINAmend.1 – routes of consent to be confirmed.</p>	

8	AWERB Hub. (None)	
9	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): TBD	