

ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 17th June 2025, Online meeting

	Items.	AWERB Outcome
1	Attendance: 12 x members	
2	Minutes of the last meeting.	
2.1	Approved	
3	Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (6 th May 2025)	
3.1	3.1 Pathogen present in breeding unit	Ongoing
3.2	3.2 Stress impact of fire alarms	Ongoing
3.3	3.3 Refined handling preference to be discussed at January meeting.	NACWOs to consider integrating 3Hs handling habitation into handling training at point of induction and PIL Training Course. Revisit in May meeting
3.4	4.3 ASC call for evidence on retrospective assessment and non-technical summaries	Complete
3.5	Discussion of practices around single-housed zebrafish	Consideration of new policy and potential enrichment interventions
4	Chair's Verbal Report	
4.1	Thanks to organisers for recent 3Rs Awards events.	

4.2	Update regarding recent FOI themes.	
5	<p data-bbox="315 260 427 284">New PPL</p> <p data-bbox="183 320 226 344">5.1</p> <p data-bbox="315 320 479 344">PPL.1June25</p> <p data-bbox="315 352 1693 440">Aims: The aim of the project is to advance understanding of the mechanisms regulating blood flow at the tissue level within vital organs and in so doing identify interventions that could be used to improve clinical outcomes for disease's involving poor circulation.</p> <p data-bbox="315 448 1379 472">Harms: Rats, mice, mild (60%), moderate, GA modifications, surgery, drug administration.</p> <p data-bbox="315 480 1715 655">Benefits: Reduction in blood flow within organs/tissues is a common feature of life-threatening diseases such as diabetes, heart failure, chronic kidney disease, and dementia. It is widely accepted that this reduction in blood flow is due to the failure of regulatory mechanisms and that restoring normal flow would slow or reverse the progression of the disease. It is unclear why the mechanisms regulating blood flow at the tissue level fail during disease. Consequently, there is a need to advance understanding of the mechanisms involved in regulating blood flow and how these altered during disease in order to identify factors contributing to regulatory failure.</p> <p data-bbox="315 695 450 719">Discussion:</p> <ul data-bbox="365 727 976 951" style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardised wording use • Upper limits and maximum frequencies required • Dosing routes • Training and experience • Number required for breeding protocols • Overall severity of licence • Suitability of use of treadmill <p data-bbox="183 999 226 1023">5.2</p> <p data-bbox="315 1015 479 1038">PPL.2June25</p> <p data-bbox="315 1046 1693 1102">Aims: To enable blood and tissues to be collected for scientific purposes from animals whilst they are being killed by anaesthetic overdose.</p> <p data-bbox="315 1110 1626 1166">Harms: Domestic fowl (<i>Gallus gallus domesticus</i>) , Mice, Rats, Guinea pigs, Rabbits, Pigs, Sheep, blood/tissue sampling under terminal anaesthesia, all mild</p> <p data-bbox="315 1174 1715 1318">Benefits: Blood and tissues are used for a broad range of scientific purposes, including in-vitro and ex-vivo assays and regulated studies involving blood or cell transfusions. Currently, blood is collected for these activities after the animal has been killed, which severely restricts the blood volume and quality of the blood obtained. The ability to collect blood under terminal anaesthesia will enable larger volumes of high-quality blood to be obtained and thereby reduce the number of animals needed.</p> <p data-bbox="315 1358 450 1382">Discussion:</p>	<p data-bbox="1749 320 2074 408">Approved subject to changes to be reviewed by a subcommittee.</p> <p data-bbox="1749 999 2040 1118">Approved subject to clarifications. Chair and NVS to review final draft due to conflict.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remit of licence and potential demand • Animal numbers • Use of teaching animals • Compliance oversight and licence transfer routes • Relationship to existing ethical review routes • Current tissue sharing network 	
6	PPL Amendment Reviews	
6.1	PPLAmend1.Jun25 Change of PPL Licence holders	Approved
6.2	PPLAmend2.Jun25 Increase in animal numbers	Approved
6.3	PPLAmend3.Jun25 Increase in breeding animal numbers Increase in range of surgical procedures	Requires further detail prior to approval.
7	Mid Term Reviews	
7.1	MTR.1Jun25 Significant progress across Aims, including publications Multiple evidences of application of Reduction and Refinement activities Discussion of unexpected adverse effects	Approved
7.2	MTR.2Jun25 Animals use lower than predicted due to funding Progress made across one objective Results shared across conferences and progressing to publications.	Approved
8	Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.	
8.1	Non-Regulated Projects – UINs Reviewed: UIN. 1- 4 AWERB approved: 3, 4	Secretary to inform

	AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2 AWERB did not yet approved: 1	
8.1.1	UINs to note:	
8.1.2	UIN.1 – project would require a PPL	
8.1.3	UIN.2 – suggestions for more refined study design. Behaviour-based experimental endpoints would be required.	
9.2	Non-Regulated Projects – VINs. Reviewed: VIN.1 - 5 AWERB approved: 4, 5 AWERB approved pending clarifications: 1 - 3 AWERB not yet approved:	Secretary to inform
9.2.1	VINs to note: VIN.1 – Clarity required for durations of general anaesthesia VIN.2 – Information regarding collaborating clinicians required. Discussion to be had regarding scope of pre-existing consent forms. VIN.3 – Accuracy of listed collaborators. Clarity regarding remit of sample collection required.	
10	Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments UINAmend.1 – tissue collection procedure requires clarification UINAmend.2 – routes of external communication require clarification UINAmend.3 – site permissions required VINAmend.1 – Approved.	
11	AWERB Hub. (None)	

12	Any Other Business. Discussion of reputations risks associated with collaborative publications.	
13	Dates of Next Meetings (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person): 8 th July	