

## ANIMAL WELFARE & ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

Minutes: 1:30pm, 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Online meeting

|     | Items.   | AWERB Outcome                                     |
|-----|--|---|
| 1   | Attendance: 10 x members   |   |
| 2   | Minutes of the last meeting.   |   |
| 2.1 | Approved   | Complete  |
| 3   | Matters arising from the notes of previous meeting (16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024)  |   |
| 2.1 | 2.1 Zebrafish GAA Passport.  | Ongoing.  |
| 2.2 | 2.2 Ethical approval and governance routes involved with the use of animals overseas.  | Ongoing.  |
| 2.3 | 2.3 Development of AWERB poster for animal units.  | Complete.   |
| 2.4 | 2.4 Governance of non-ASPA aquatics facility – initial meeting held across management teams, with more frequent NACWO support and on-call input in place; there are further review meetings planned. | Ongoing.  |
| 2.5 | 13.1 Discussion regarding AWERB oversight and governance of animals used in veterinary teaching  | To be discussed with attendee at October meeting. |
| 4   | Chair's Verbal Report  |   |
| 4.1 | Welcome to new lay member attending this meeting   |   |
| 4.2 | Planning to begin for annual 3Rs Awards  |   |
| 4.3 | News of summer meeting reschedule  |   |

|     |   |         |
|-----|---|---------|
| 5   | NVS Report  |         |
| 5.1 | Previously discussed pathogen still present in breeding unit following treatment attempts. Line screening now underway to isolate affected strains. Pathogen has minimal impact on animal health therefore no immediate welfare concerns. | Ongoing |
| 5.2 | 4 x SC18 since last NVS Report, with one awaiting response and three now closed. No ongoing welfare concerns.   |         |
| 5.3 | Potential non-compliance report submitted. Root causes have been investigated and processes have been updated. No ongoing animal welfare concerns.  |         |
| 5.4 | Animal research information banner present at University Open Day.  |         |
| 5.5 | Discussion of most refined handling options for behavioural tests.  |         |
| 5.6 | Successes of Emotional Resilience workshops rolled out across the year.   |         |
| 6   | NTCO Report   |         |
| 6.1 | Discussion of training and competency report.   |         |
| 6.2 | Still awaiting central timetabling for room allocations for personal licence holder (PIL) Training Course.  |         |
| 6.3 | Overview of numbers of personal licence applications across the last few years.   |         |
| 6.4 | Discussion of PIL E licence remit.  |         |
| 6.5 | Upcoming Trainers Day event hosted at Bristol.  |         |
| 7   | NIO Report  |         |
| 7.1 | Publication of national annual animal research statistics. The University's own annual statistics were refreshed on the public-facing webpage, alongside AWERB minutes and project summaries.   |         |
| 7.2 | Updated links to 3Rs resources within animal research costing tool.   |         |
| 7.3 | Ongoing co-ordination of support for Replacement-based funding opportunities.   |         |

|     |  |                             |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 7.4 | New openness information hub developed for internal use  | Approved                    |
| 7.5 | Attendance at recent NC3Rs event.  |                             |
| 7.6 | Request for advice and further outreach permissions regarding new information sharing initiative.  |                             |
| 7.7 | Developing further communication resources for specific mouse procedures working group.            |                             |
| 7.8 | Surgical space survey underway.  |                             |
| 8   | NACWO Report   |                             |
| 8.1 | Rehoming of chickens following non-regulated work.   |                             |
| 8.2 | New species of fish being used with the unit.  |                             |
| 8.3 | New custom equipment currently being commissioned.   |                             |
| 8.4 | Enrichment study carried out across breeding study.  |                             |
| 8.5 | Use of tissue sharing network uptake has been increasing from adverts placed by the breeding unit. |                             |
| 8.6 | New eco-dish being used to increase sustainability across the unit.                                |                             |
| 8.7 | Room consolidation going well across a multi-species unit.   |                             |
| 8.8 | Handling rats are now benefiting from a daily playpen routine.                                     |                             |
| 8.9 | Technical input has been sought for in-cage monitoring system design.                              |                             |
| 9   | Project Licences – New Applications.   | Approved subject to changes |
| 9.1 | PPL.1Sep24   |                             |

|       |   |   |
|-------|---|---|
|       | <p>Aims: To facilitate the acquisition of the surgical skills needed to optimise patient outcomes during the introduction of novel devices into mainstream medical practice</p> <p>Benefits: The safe and effective introduction of the device into the clinical setting. Advancing the treatment options available to patients. This involves For those undergoing the training - a theoretical understanding of the device, developing the skills set necessary to safely and effectively utilise the device, including where relevant, the surgical approach to its removal and/or replacement and confidence to assume a lead role in the roll-out of the device into mainstream clinical use.</p> <p>Harms: Juvenile pigs, or adult mini-pigs, sheep, largely non recovery (80%), 20 % moderate. Under anaesthesia surgery to implant device, non-invasive imaging. 20% may recover (e.g. need to train surgeon to remove or replace device),</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simulation and video alternatives.</li> <li>• Removal of recovery protocol</li> <li>• AWERB oversight</li> <li>• Assessment of learning or evaluation metrics</li> <li>• Potential to reduce surgical wait times and increase capacity for UK surgeons.</li> </ul> |   |
| 10    | Project Licences – Amendments.  |   |
| 10.1  | PPLAmend.1Sep24 - Paperwork incomplete, review postponed until full application is received.  | Not approved in current form – information outstanding. |
| 8     | Report on Non-Regulated Projects UIN and VIN applications.  |   |
| 8.1   | <p>Non-Regulated Projects – UINs</p> <p>Reviewed: UIN.1-7<br/> AWERB approved: 1,2, 4, 5, 6<br/> AWERB approved pending clarifications: 3, 7<br/> AWERB did not yet approved:</p>   | Secretary to inform                                     |
| 8.1.1 | <p>UINs to note:</p> <p>UIN.3 – more information regarding removal of equipment bonded to carapace, and maximum duration of animal holding time required. Edit required to title.</p>   |   |

|       |   |  |
|-------|---|--|
|       | UIN.7 – more information about rehoming routes required.  |  |
| 8.2   | <p>Non-Regulated Projects – VINs.</p> <p>Reviewed: VIN.1 - 5<br/> AWERB approved: VIN.1, 3, 4<br/> AWERB approved pending clarifications: 2<br/> AWERB not yet approved: 5</p>  | Secretary to inform                      |
| 8.2.1 | <p>VINs to note:</p> <p>VIN.2 – more information required around scientific merit and permissions around cadaver acceptance.</p> <p>VIN.5 – concerns around number of interventions proposed and resulting cumulative stress.</p> |  |
| 9     | Non-Regulated Projects - UIN and VIN amendments   |  |
| 9.1   | UINAmend.1 – More risk assessment information required regarding proposed equipment use.  |  |
| 9.2   | UINAmend.2 – Inclusion of requested changes needs to be transferred to the body of the application.   |  |
| 9.3   | UINAmend.3 – Approved   |  |
| 9.4   | VINAmend.1 – Approved.  |  |
| 10    | AWERB Hub.<br>(None)  |  |
| 11    | Any Other Business.   |  |
| 11.1  | Plans for ASU stand at Fresher Fayre  | Proposal to be sent to AWERB next month. |
| 12    | <p><b>Dates of Next Meetings</b> (Online until further notice but twice yearly in person):</p> <p>15<sup>th</sup> October<br/> 19<sup>th</sup> November<br/> 10<sup>th</sup> December</p>   |  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | 14 <sup>th</sup> January<br>11 <sup>th</sup> February<br>11 <sup>th</sup> March<br>1 <sup>st</sup> April<br>6 <sup>th</sup> May<br>10 <sup>th</sup> June<br>8 <sup>th</sup> July |  |
|--|--|--|