

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes
25 November 2016

Present: 10 members were present at the meeting with 1 person in attendance.
Apologies: Apologies were received from 5 members.

Minutes

16/28 The minutes of the meeting on 27 September 2016 were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received AWERC16/05

16/29 The update on actions was received for information.

16/30 A correction to the animal numbers submitted as part of project licence mid-term review MR12 had been requested. The revised figures were still awaited and would be brought to the next meeting. **Action: Administrator**

PPL applications

A328

16/31 The applicant was welcomed to the meeting, introduced to the Committee and asked to provide some background to the work. The Committee was told that the project would involve the study of communication between the brainstem and spinal cord. The majority of animals would be used in terminal procedures under anaesthesia to identify potential targets before recovery work would be done. Members agreed that the application was well written with a good rationale provided for sample size and therefore the overall number of animals requested. Other matters discussed included the application for both rats and mice in the same protocol, which the Home Office had indicated they may seek to change, and efforts to reduce the number of animals required through the storage of tissues which would also facilitate sharing of tissues more widely.

16/32 It was felt that the lay paragraph was too technical and that the aims and objectives did not translate from the licence and non-technical summary. It was agreed that this should be reviewed with the assistance of the NVS. **Action: NVS.**

16/33 The Committee was satisfied that with minor changes the application should be submitted to the Home Office.

PPL amendments and reviews

Received AWERC16/06

16/34 The Committee received details of two recent amendments which had still to be approved by the Home Office.

Mid-term review

MR14

16/35 The Committee was told that this had been a very active group which collaborated well with the NACWOs and NVS regarding animal care and welfare. One condition 18 report had been submitted, following a sudden unexpected death of one mouse; this had been reported to the Committee previously and had been filed by the Home Office. The NVS advised that there had been no concerns associated with the project.

Home Office ASPA Section 5B reviews

S5B15

16/36 Although no work had yet been done under the project one member of the Committee and the NVS advised that this was still an active research group which had achieved regular grant funding success. Staff had been undertaking training elsewhere for the work to be done under the project. In the report the licensee confirmed that analysis and publication of preliminary data had been awaited and that funding was expected to be granted during the lifetime of the project.

16/37 The Committee agreed that, in view of the information provided by the licensee and the confirmation given by the NVS that it was very likely that the licence would be used, the licence should remain in place.

16/38 The report would be submitted to the Home Office as required under ASPA Section 5B.
Action: Administrator.

S5B16

16/39 The licence holder gave a short presentation of the work undertaken on the project which was concerned with identifying the roles of different proteins in the cardiovascular system. The project was seeking to learn more about these proteins to identify translational aspects which could be applied to serious human conditions including atherosclerosis, aneurysm and myocardial infarction. The applicant explained the progress of the work undertaken so far. The Committee was told that no animals had been used on the severe protocol with the majority of procedures just involving blood sampling.

16/40 Matters discussed included refinement of procedures; training in techniques to improve expertise and sharing this expertise with other research groups; expected adverse effects which had been lower than expected due to ongoing refinement of procedures and end-points; and the possibility that the number of breeding animals may have to be increased which would require an amendment to the licence.

16/41 The Committee was satisfied with progress under the project, with good attention to animal welfare and with the continued application of the 3Rs. The report and updated non-technical summary would be submitted to the Home Office as required under ASPA Section 5B.
Action: Administrator.

S5B17

16/42 The licensee was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made. The Committee was given some background to the work concerned with spinal cord injury.

16/43 Matters discussed included replacement through the use of computer simulations to predict mechanical effects; the care and monitoring of animals under procedures; statistical design and the 3Rs, in particular ongoing refinement of procedures through training of students in current techniques and collaboration to learn and share new ideas. The considerable efforts of the PPL holder to care for the animals were acknowledged along with his participation in an RSPCA project to produce guidance for spinal cord research, the first draft of which was being produced.

16/44 The Committee was satisfied with progress under the project, with attention to animal welfare and with the continued application of the 3Rs. The report and updated non-technical summary would be submitted to the Home Office as required under ASPA Section 5B.
Action: Administrator.

Section 5B, Mid-term and Final Review Schedule

Received AWERC16/07

16/45 The Committee received the schedule which had been updated to include project licence reviews during the next 5 years along with details of the type of review that would be

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required for each project. It was noted that the backlog of reviews had been cleared and the Committee welcomed having the full list to refer to. It was agreed that project licences would be reviewed on the basis previously agreed, i.e. according to the severity of protocols, as indicated in the schedule.

16/46 The Administrator was asked to continue to update the review schedule on an ongoing basis. **Action: Administrator.**

Establishment Licence (PEL) holder's update

16/47 The PEL holder reported that there had been no condition 18 reports since the last meeting.

Welfare of Pigs

Received AWERC16/08

16/48 The Committee was told that a question about the welfare of pigs had been raised at Council as a result of major investment at the site. Currently work, such as dietary studies, was non-regulated and therefore governed by the Animal and Plant Health Agency. However, an independent report from the vet responsible for animals had been commissioned and circulated for the Committee to consider.

16/49 The report confirmed that was compliant with regulations and quality audit standards applicable to the non-regulated work being undertaken. This information would be conveyed in the next annual report from AWERC to the Council. **Action: PEL holder.**

16/50 The NVS gave his assurance that protocols would continue to be checked to confirm that any work would be either non-regulated, with the animals kept under the care of the veterinarian, or proposals brought to the Committee if licences under ASPA (with POLE authority) should be required.

16/51 The potential for increased press and animal rights attention was noted.

NVS's update

16/52 The NVS advised that there had been no animal welfare concerns since the last meeting.

16/53 A pre-handover inspection of the new imaging facilities had taken place and the Home Office Inspector had been invited to visit before the end of the year with a view to adding the facility to the University's designation, subject to approval.

NACWOs' Report

16/54 In the absence of the unit manager the administrator told the Committee that there had been nothing to report since the last meeting.

Animal Care and Welfare Sub-group Report

Received paper AWERC/16/09 for information

16/55 The report from the Animal Care and Welfare Sub-group was received for information.

Review of Schedule of Business

Received AWERC/16/10 for information

16/56 The updated Schedule of Business was received for information.

Date of next meeting

16/57 The date of the January meeting was to be re-scheduled. This and the other 2017 meeting dates would be circulated as soon as possible.