

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes
8 December 2017

Present: 7 members were present at the meeting with one person in attendance.

Minutes

17/27 The minutes of the meeting on 29 September were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received paper AWERC17/05

17/28 The update on actions was received for information. The Committee was told that further updates regarding *min 17/18* and *min 17/25* would be provided under Agenda items 5 and 11 respectively.

PPL Application

A336 Revised

17/29 The Committee was told that, following advice given at the last meeting, the applicant had gone through the application and made comprehensive changes. The applicant was welcomed to the meeting, introduced to the Committee and delivered a short presentation to explain the basis of the proposed work. Discussions of the application included the use of lowest severity routes to be used in the work and plans to keep animal numbers to a minimum through using a single control group for every four treatment groups. The Committee was told that as much work as possible had been done in the lab before animal use had become necessary. The statistical power analysis, clearly stated in the application, was commended. Some further changes to the application were suggested to more accurately describe the work to be done and it was agreed that, with these changes incorporated, the application could be submitted to the Home Office (HO).

PPL Application

A337

17/30 The applicant was welcomed to the Committee, introduced to members and gave a short presentation about the proposed work. Discussions were concerned with pilot studies, the use of imaging to limit adverse effects and the application of humane endpoints to keep procedures within the moderate prospective severity assessment. It was suggested that the moderate protocols should state that no animals would experience more than moderate severity. It was agreed that, subject to a number of changes being made, the application could be submitted to the HO.

PPL Application

A338

17/31 After a brief introduction from the NVS to provide the background to the work which was concerned with bird ecology the Committee welcomed the applicant to the meeting and introductions were made. Discussions were concerned with the work at POLES sites and the potential for re-use if birds were caught and sampled on more than one occasion. The rationale for the sample size calculations was also discussed and it was suggested that an example of power calculation should be included in the reduction section. The Chair asked that the benefits of the work be brought out more clearly in the short lay paragraph for publication. It was agreed that the application should be submitted to the HO once the minor changes had been incorporated.

Establishment Licence (PEL) holder's update

17/32 The PEL holder reported on the long term absence of the manager and thanked the NACWOs, NVS and HOLC for ensuring animal welfare, smooth running of the facilities and ongoing development of the new IT system during this period. The named persons

confirmed that work was being shared between staff to avoid undue pressure on individuals.

- 17/33 There had been no Condition 18 reports since the last meeting although four incidents had been investigated which the NVS would report on. An issue with the water supply to one cage had been picked up by the responsible PIL holder and rectified.
- 17/34 Discussions with a lay member of the Committee had taken place (*min 17/25*) and a potential new member had been identified who would be asked to join the Committee at an appropriate time. Provisional agreement for an ethics seminar to be delivered to the Committee had also been reached and the PEL holder and lay member had agreed that this would take place in late 2018 when advice on the type of issues related to animal research and procedures could be provided to inform the presentation.
- 17/35 The University had experienced some delays in the granting of project licences which were thought to be due, in part, to heavy workloads of the HO inspectorate.
- 17/36 The Committee was asked to consider and give its views on a proposal from a prospective UAF to obtain and use brain tissues from deceased zoo monkeys for use in neuroscience research. Since the work would not be regulated, formal AWERC endorsement would not be required. However, the PEL holder had taken the view that the AWERC should be given the opportunity to satisfy itself on possible ethical and institutional questions.
- 17/37 In the ensuing discussion the Committee was advised that the tissues were to be obtained from animals which had either died of natural causes or been put to sleep for welfare reasons at the end of their natural life; tissues would not be obtained from primates bred for research or scientific purposes; there would be no financial aspect to the arrangement; and the tissues would be received freely from the zoo authorities, as with other animal tissues (e.g. those obtained from slaughtered animals) or as was the case with human tissue donated and used for scientific and medical research purposes. On this basis, the Committee concluded that the proposal, which required use of tissues from animals that were already dead, was in line with 3Rs principles, and that the proposed work did not in itself give rise to any ethical concerns. The Committee could see no reason not to proceed. However, it was noted that there was a reputation dimension, which was a matter for the University's senior management team to address. **ACTION: PEL holder.**

Named Veterinary Surgeon's update

- 17/38 In relation to the incidents reported by the PEL holder the NVS advised that three instances of unexplained death had occurred involving 3 mice (1 out of a group of 37, 1 out of a group of 24 and 1 out of a group of 18) 2 of which had been on a severe protocol and 1 on a moderate protocol. The instances were being investigated and would be discussed with the Inspector and reported to the HO subject to the content of new guidance for Condition 18 reporting which was expected to be published by the end of the year.

NACWOs' Report

- 17/39 The Committee was told that the cage wash installation had gone well with limited noise levels and no apparent animal welfare effects being noticed. Staff would continue to monitor animals in the vicinity.
- 17/40 Technical staff training for the new IT system had taken place and work towards implementation was progressing at a steady pace.

Final Reviews

FR25

- 17/41 The Committee considered the number of animals used and the severity of the project. It was noted that a new appointment would be made and a new application submitted, in due course, to continue the work

FR26

- 17/42 The Committee noted that, although only a small number of animals had been used, due to the involvement of research groups from several disciplines considerable results were

produced from terminally anaesthetised animals. The NVS advised that funding had been secured for further work.

Mid-term Review

MR27

17/43 The Committee discussed delays due to finding a suitable site for the wind tunnel and other issues which had all been previously reported and discussed during 2014-16 (*min 14/66, 14/104, 15/04, 15/39, 15/59 and 15/101 refer*). The NVS reported that work was now going smoothly and that no further issues had arisen.

Schedule of Business

Received AWERC/17/06

17/44 The Committee received the updated schedule of business for information.

Other Business

AWERB Hub

(Received papers 17/07 and 17/08)

17/45 The Chair proposed that the papers 17/07 and 17/08 should be brought forward for discussion at the next meeting and agreed to circulate a presentation once it was received.
ACTION: Chair.

Draft invitation and advice to PPL applicants

(Received paper 17/09)

17/46 The Chair asked the Committee to send comments on the draft to the administrator. It was agreed that the three researchers whose applications had been considered at the meeting should also be invited to comment on what information/advice could help them. An updated draft would be brought to the next meeting. **ACTION: All.**

Date of next meeting

17/47 The next meeting would be held at 14.00 on Wednesday 31 January.