

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

**ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**

Minutes  
20 November 2015

**Present:** 9 members were present at the meeting with 1 person in attendance.

**Apologies:** Apologies were received from 5 members.

**Minutes**

15/1 The minutes of the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were received and approved.

**Matters Arising**

*Received paper AWERC/15/01*

15/2 The Chair asked for the question which was raised at Council regarding membership of Understanding Animal Research (UAR) to be noted and told the Committee that the University's membership of UAR had since been confirmed.

15/3 With regard to imaging facilities a few points still required clarification and a decision was still to be made between the options of using individually ventilated cages (IVCs) for animal holding or alternatively the provision of suitable ventilation for animal holding rooms. The flow of work between facilities was also under consideration.

15/4 Discussions regarding a permanent site for the wind tunnel had been continuing between Estates Services and the Faculty concerned.

**Terms of Reference Oversight**

*Received paper AWERC/15/02*

15/5 The Terms of Reference Oversight paper was accepted as a working document which would be reviewed annually at the time when the annual report to Council was being prepared.

**Revised PPL Review Schedule**

*Received paper AWERC/15/03*

15/6 The Committee noted that the schedule of project licence (PPL) mid-term reviews had been updated to include all current PPLs and that the severity of protocols had been corrected after a member had brought an error to the attention of the administrator. Working practices had been revised so that protocol severity would be recorded upon grant of a PPL. An updated list would be provided to the Committee on an annual basis.

**NACWOs' Report**

*Received paper AWERC/15/04*

15/7 The NACWO updated the Committee regarding recent diabetic mice shipments and the Committee was pleased to note that no further problems had occurred.

15/8 The Committee supported proposals for replacement of cages in one of the units and were told that a business case for their purchase was being prepared.

15/9 The Manager advised the Committee that a member of staff had refused to allow a shipment of animals to be taken by a Spanish courier who had arrived to collect the animals in an inappropriate vehicle. The vigilance of the member of staff was commended and the contribution of the unit technical staff to the culture of care at the University was acknowledged.

15/10 The Chair proposed that a tour of the facilities on an annual basis should be scheduled and welcomed the opportunity, during these visits, to talk to the unit staff, explain the work of the Committee and to receive their ideas. **ACTION: Chair & NACWOs**

15/11 It was reported that a Chief Scientific Officer from the RSPCA had recently visited the University as part of a focused project to review severe protocols and that following a tour of the unit the standard of facilities at the University had been praised.

### **Material for University Web Pages**

*Received paper AWERC/15/05*

15/12 The Committee supported proposals for publication of a brief lay summary for each PPL to link to the non-technical summary which had been supplied to the Home Office. Summaries would be requested at the time of application for new PPLs and current PPL holders would be asked to provide summaries for their existing PPLs. The press office would be asked for support in producing these as required. **ACTION: Administrator.**

### **Review of Schedule of Business**

*Received paper AWERC/15/06*

15/13 The schedule of business was received and would be updated following the meeting.

### **GAA Assessment Tool**

*Received paper AWERC/15/07*

15/14 The Home Office Efficient breeding of Genetically Altered Animals (GAA) Assessment Tool had been circulated for information. The NVS advised that this tool had been developed to assist establishments in reducing wastage of animals under GAA production. The document was being trialled during the next few months with a view to testing its use and then the Home Office would update the tool subject to their findings. The University was already working hard to avoid waste and would be one of the first establishments to be inspected by the Home Office for GAA production. The NVS welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the testing and development of the document at an early stage. The Committee acknowledged the value of the tool and it was agreed that an annual summary of GAA production on the University's service licence should be brought to the Committee with information from individual PPLs being incorporated as part of scheduled project reviews. **ACTION: Administrator**

### **PPL Reviews**

#### **MR001**

15/15 The Committee received a mid-term review report and a short presentation of work under the licence from the PPL holder. The value and progress of the work in the field of obesity, diabetes and cardiac disease was acknowledged along with the application and focus of the PPL holder on the 3Rs throughout. Matters discussed included the reasons for using, primarily, male animals, the severity of protocols and the broadening of the scope of the work which had required an application for another new PPL.

#### **MR002**

15/16 The Committee received a mid-term review report which indicated that no work had been done under the project because funding had not been secured. The timing of grant and PPL applications and the question of what to do when work under a granted PPL did not go ahead were discussed and it was agreed that there was no clear solution to this issue.

### **Amendments**

15/17 *Received paper AWERC/15/08*

15/18 One application for amendment to a PPL had been received and fast-tracked since the last meeting.

### **Application A316**

15/19 The Committee considered the species requested in the application and agreed that the applicant should be asked to provide details of any GAA lines to be used, initially, as an appendix. Other matters discussed included indicators of animal health, the possible benefit of using pilot studies and the estimate of numbers which was considered to be conservative. The Committee agreed that, subject to minor changes, the application could be submitted to the Home Office.

**Application A317**

15/20 The Committee considered the species included in the application and agreed that it would be appropriate for the licence to be single-species. The benefits of the licence and its contribution to the 3Rs were acknowledged. It was agreed that, subject to minor changes, the application could be submitted to the Home Office.

**Other Business**

15/21 Reciprocal arrangements with a neighbouring establishment for NVS leave and emergency cover had been agreed and would become effective from January 2016.

**Date of next meeting**

15/22 1100 to 1300 on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016.