

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE

Minutes
6 July 2017

Present: 11 members were present at the meeting with 2 people in attendance.

Apologies: Apologies were received from 3 members.

Minutes

16/147 The minutes of the meeting on 11 May 2017 were received and approved.

Matters arising

Received paper AWERC16/25

16/148 The update on actions was received for information. Feedback from the licensee training courses would be included in the next report from the Group on Training Requirements.

Establishment Licence (PEL) holder's update

16/149 The PEL holder reported that three Condition 18 reports had been submitted to the Home Office (HO) since the last meeting. In each case a single mouse had been found dead, post-procedurally. Since two of the animals had been on one study the NVS and Project licence (PPL) holder were reviewing whether a change to the severity of the protocol was needed. The HO had been informed, no concerns had been raised and the reports had been filed.

16/150 The Committee was updated on ministerial responsibilities for the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act (ASPA) following the General Election and told that following the retirement of the head of the HO Animals in Research Support Unit (ASRU) a senior member of the ASRU team would serve as interim head of the unit.

16/151 During 2017 additional statistical data had been requested by the HO for animals bred but not used in procedures (and not reported under PPL conditions) and for the number of animals which had been tissue sampled for genotyping. This data collection was in response to a 5-yearly requirement for EU Member States to return the information in question under EU Directive (2010/63/EU).

Named Veterinary Surgeons' (NVS) update

16/152 The NVS advised that the HO inspector had accepted the reasons given for the deaths reported under condition 18, reported by the PEL holder (min 16/149), and had discussed whether the severity of the protocol should be increased if the trend was to continue. A new advice note for Condition 18 reporting had just been circulated in draft for consultation with stakeholders. It was hoped that this would address the increased workload for establishments and the HO inspectorate.

16/153 Invitations had been sent out for the official opening of the
on 13 July and the HO inspector had indicated that she would attend
and might bring another senior colleague from the Home Office for the event.

Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers' (NACWO) Report

16/154 One of the NACWOs (reported that there had been two incidents recently (on 25 May and 24 June) when the chiller had not been operative, and temperatures in the unit had risen beyond the normal maximum; because the problems had been rectified promptly, no animal welfare issues had been apparent. The Committee noted that high temperatures were always a risk during periods of unusually hot weather but only became an issue for animal welfare if not addressed. The Committee acknowledged the fact that the unit had a backup in place, having been able to keep the mobile chiller, and that Estates Services had responded quickly to address the problem on both occasions.

16/155 The Manager reported that meetings had taken place to discuss plans and learn about the proposed first phase of planned refurbishment work. The main concerns for animal welfare would be noise and vibration. A plan of the unit was tabled and used to demonstrate measures already in place to limit noise from local traffic and from the adjacent building. These included acoustic insulation and the considered location, during design of the facility, of the animal holding rooms away from external and adjoining walls. Estate services were organising further acoustic and vibration tests in advance of any planned work to test the robustness of structure to noise and vibration. Discussions with Estates Services would be ongoing during the works to ensure that impact on the facility would be kept to a minimum. A member of Estates Services would be invited to future meetings should there be anything of significance to report concerning animal welfare. The Committee acknowledged that Estates Services were sensitive to the situation.

PPL Reviews and Applications

FR23 and A335

16/156 The Committee agreed to consider this PPL final review (FR23) and a new application (A335) together since both related to the same, ongoing, project. The NVS explained that the project was concerned with wound healing. The applicant was welcomed to the meeting and invited to explain the work to the Committee.

16/157 The work, using mice, rats, rabbits and pigs, would help in the development of new, more effective, therapies to reduce blood loss and scarring after trauma, promote the healing of chronic wounds and control wound infection. It was reported that, particularly with an ageing population, these conditions affected tens of millions of people (worldwide) every year. This work was conducted in conjunction with academic and commercial collaborators. The review was discussed first, including reasons for lower numbers of animals being used which was explained as being due to difficulties in being able accurately to predict numbers beyond the first year. The application of the 3Rs was discussed including new approaches such as the introduction of a new method for injection of anaesthetics to reduce handling and stress of pigs, enrichments and care regimes being introduced during the lifetime of the project.

16/158 During discussion of the application the Committee considered the range of work being undertaken; the length of the studies; the species, strain and sex of animals requested and why they were the preferred species for each protocol; and the use of historical control data in one type of treatment where minimal changes had been experienced. The detailed method for welfare data analysis was noted, which included visual, weight and thermal measures. The practice of using small pilot studies to screen out any non-viable options was also acknowledged. In response to a question concerning Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) the applicant explained that the work was focused on efficacy so did not have to meet GLP requirements.

16/159 The Committee was satisfied that with some minor amendments the application should be submitted to the HO. Some minor changes to the short lay paragraph were also requested.

PPL Section 5B review

S5B22

16/160 The PPL holder was welcomed to the meeting and presented to the Committee. Regulated procedures authorised by the licence provide the experiential learning component of a final year undergraduate module in in-vivo physiology and pharmacology. Details of the module and learning outcomes were explained and described along with the fact that work done by the students was under delegated authority so that they weren't required to hold personal licences.

16/161 The Committee discussed changes to the protocols to reduce harms to animals and at the same time provide a greater range of learning experiences for the students. The selection and number of students was discussed; with selection including both aptitude and a statement of interest to select those who would benefit most; and the high take-up of related careers following the module was noted. The licensee's initiatives for sharing educational resources; his involvement in the provision of training and CPD locally and internationally,

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

and involvement/collaboration with external organisations such as the NC3Rs and RSPCA were acknowledged.

- 16/162 The Committee supported the continuation of the project and the amended non-technical summary. A report would be submitted to the Home Office as required under Section 5B. **ACTION: Administrator.**

PPL amendments summary

Received paper AWERC/16/26

- 16/163 A summary of PPL amendments since the last meeting was received for information.

- 16/164 In response to a question from the Chair about restriction of food, included in one amendment, the NVS explained that this was considered to be a regulated procedure if the restriction was for more than 16 hours.

Draft Annual Report

Paper AWERC/16/27, tabled

- 16/165 The Committee received a draft report for consideration and comment following the meeting. Comments should be sent to the PEL holder by the end of July. **ACTION: All.**

- 16/166 In response to a question from the Chair the PEL holder confirmed that the development of the openness web page was in hand.

Review of membership

- 16/167 The Committee briefly discussed one suggestion and it was agreed that the Chair, PEL holder, NVS and HOLC should meet to discuss membership further, to consider different perspectives and continuity and report at the next meeting. **ACTION: Administrator.**

- 16/168 Members were asked to contact the administrator if they would be unable to continue their membership during 2017/18. **ACTION: ALL.**

Export of live animals

Received AWERC/16/28

- 16/169 The NVS advised that the paper had been prepared at the request of the PEL Holder following a recent case to inform the Committee about the basis on which animals were occasionally exported to researchers overseas and to allow it to review and test controls. . Whilst most transgenic lines provided to researchers overseas were shipped as frozen embryos/sperm small numbers of GA animals produced at the University were shipped to researchers overseas when a case was made for this to be done. During the last year this had involved less than 50 animals. The Committee was satisfied that all necessary requirements were in place from both an ethical and a welfare perspective, but agreed that the number of animals exported by the University should be included in the statistical data produced each year. This information would be added to the annual statistical report (March). **Action: Animal Facility Manger, NVS and administrator**

Schedule of Business

Received AWERC/16/29

- 16/170 The Committee received the updated schedule of business for information.

Other Business

- 16/171 **Putting Ethics into the AWERB.** The Chair reported that she had attended a recent meeting on Putting Ethics into the AWERB and would circulate the presentations to the Committee. This would be added to the Schedule of Business as a separate Agenda item for the next meeting. **ACTION: Chair and administrator.**

Date of next meeting

- 16/172 The next meeting would be held at 1100 on Friday 29 September.