

Agenda Items:

Meeting:	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)		
Date:	07 March 2024	Time:	09:30 – 10:30
Location:	Teams meeting		
Members present:	AWERB Chair / Named Information Officer (NIO) Deputy Chair Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) NACWO Chair of BRF User Forum NASPA Chair PIL representative Statistician Research Integrity and Governance (RIGO) officer Independent, external lay member Communication's team representative		
In attendance:	AWERB Secretary,		
Minutes:	AWERB Secretary		
Acronyms	AWERB – Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body BRF – Biomedical Research Facility ECR – Early Career Researcher FEO – Favourable Ethical Opinion HOLC – Home Office Liaison Contact NASPA - Non-Animal in Scientific Procedures Act NACWO – Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer NEER – Non-Establishment Ethics Review NIO – Named Information Officer NVS – Named Veterinary Surgeon PILh – Personal Licence (holder) PPLh – Project Licence (holder) PELh – Establishment Licence (holder) RIGC – Research Integrity and Governance Committee RIGO – Research Integrity and Governance Office SAGE-AR – Self-Assessment for Governance and Ethics – Animal Research URIC – University Research and Innovation Committee		

Item		Action #
1.	<p>Welcome and Apologies</p> <p>Apologies received from: NEER Officer, PIL representative, PELh, Academic staff member with relevant research experience.</p> <p>Chair welcomed all members and gave update about membership; the committee is still looking for a replacement for the deputy NVS role. Action: The AWERB deputy chair to follow up by the end of March 2024</p> <p>Two AWERB members (the laymember and an academic staff member with relevant experience) are at the end of their three-year term but have agreed to continue service for another two years.</p>	<p>Apologies for absence to be sent to Chair in advance of meetings. (ALL)</p> <p>7/24 ACTION: Deputy Chair to follow up</p>
2.	<p>Approval of minutes and Update on actions from previous meeting</p> <p>Minutes of the previous AWERB meeting (held on 09/01/24) were circulated for final approval via email prior to the meeting; Comments to be sent by email. Action log will be removed from the official version prior to publishing on BRF website.</p> <p>3/23 AWERB Chair will continue to update <i>beta</i> version of webpages to improve content on animal research activities. Update at next meeting.</p> <p>5/23 Update on the draft 3Rs strategy document to be provided by 3R's champions, with timelines for actions added at next meeting</p> <p>8/23 Updated rehoming policy document to be discussed at today's meeting</p> <p>15/23 UK legislation training module/site for Schedule 1 users to be discussed at today's meeting</p> <p>2/24 PPL P6682B4D end of licence form to be submitted by the end of April 4/24 PP8648098 2-year review report; more details about pending grant submissions requested 6/24 Revisions to PP7099312 amendment were requested and some final minor changes have yet to be carried out</p>	<p>3/23 AWERB Chair / marketing & communication representative 5/23 AWERB Chair / All 3Rs champions</p> <p>AWERB Chair AWERB Chair AWERB Chair</p>
3.	<p>Key points from Named Person reports:</p> <p>NVS reported on PPL 7099312 (histology report update, follow-up incident from October 2023): The histology findings indicated that there was a urethral obstruction partly formed by neoplastic cells and lesions in the urinary bladder, probably due to accidental injection into the urethra instead of the prostate. No macroscopic or microscopic lesions were found in the prostate, supporting that hypothesis. Scientists have decided to stop using this model.</p> <p>NACWO reported overgrooming between litter mates in one of the breeding lines. The researcher decided to implement a refinement and try exposing affected animals to an 'enriched' environment setting for 15 mins a day to see if that helped reduce the problem. Findings were positive with skin sores on one animal disappearing completely. They</p>	

	<p>will continue to explore the positive effect of enriched environments on overgrooming.</p> <p>HOLC New PEL is now listed on ASPEL</p> <p>NIO provided a written report listing papers and topics of interest.</p> <p>NASPA Chair reported first batch of Zebrafish larvae was delivered and the lab was set up, no issues or concerns occurred. Next review is due early August.</p> <p>NEER nothing to report</p> <p>User forum Chair The use of the ultrasound machine has been promoted and one researcher has successfully implemented its use providing an example of the 3Rs principles. To support communication between users and BRF/AWERB, the Chair asked to make sure they are updated about new Users. Two users provided a presentation about the 3Rs vs. 12Rs that can be found here. This led to an interesting discussion about the importance and influence of reproducibility on animal research and welfare.</p>	
4.	<p>In-house UK legislation training for Schedule 1 Users</p> <p>NVS shared the presentation and committee members provided feedback. RIGO asked to meet up to discuss how to capture training. NVS thanked everyone for the contribution and will implement the minor changes to the slides suggested. Committee approved use of the presentation.</p> <p>Re-homing policy documents for final discussion/approval</p> <p>The document was shared with the committee prior to the meeting. The policy document should be clear on transfer of ownership. Further changes to be made to the form, and review to take place.</p>	
5.	<p>Any other business N/A</p>	
	<p>Chair thanked everybody for their contributions and closed the meeting.</p>	

Next AWERB Committee Meeting

7 th May 2024 In person	TBC
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