

The University of Nottingham
Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
Thursday 16 March 2017

MINUTES

16 Members Present, 8 Apologies, 4 in Attendance

17/12 Minutes

RECEIVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2017.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved subject to some amendments on wording for clarification.

17/13 Matters arising from the Minutes

(a) Action log – meeting 26 Jan 2017

An action log from the previous meeting had been presented to AWERB. A number of items within the log had been discussed and progress updates provided to members. This included monitoring and assessing quality of applications for animal work at UNMC and circulating information regarding retrospective review of severity assessment.

(b) Applications considered at the last meeting [Minute 17/04]

Two of the applications considered at the previous meeting had been submitted to the HO via ASPeL. The third applicant had not yet submitted but had been instructed to do so by the AWERB.

(c) AWERB as a forum for discussion [Minute 17/08]

REPORTED: The recently opened observer position on the AWERB had been attended by a member of the BSU technical staff. It had also been noted that the RSPCA/LASA information booklet had been co-funded by the UoN.

(d) Licence Tracking - spreadsheet [Minute 17/11(a)]

Following discussions at the previous meeting, a spreadsheet used to track the progress of licence applications and amendments was shared with members and would be updated and presented at each future meeting.

17/14 Chair's Business

(a) Limiting number of revisions before coming to AWERB

REPORTED: Following some submissions that had required multiple revisions and high levels of intervention on the part of some AWERB members it had been discussed as to whether there could be a limit on the number of accepted revisions in an application.

RESOLVED: It was noted that there were several issues with a limit on the number of revisions. It had been proposed that the Establishment Licence Holder intervene in the process to ultimately decide whether an application was ready for AWERB consideration and communicate this to the applicant.

(b) 3Rs Committee initial meeting and planned activities

REPORTED: The 3Rs committee had met in the previous month to discuss the retrospective and mid-point review process, with updates to be provided in due course.

17/15 Project Licence Applications

(a) Prof AA

REPORTED: The applicant's research colleague had presented an overview of the intended work which aimed to develop understanding of the mechanisms of pain.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NAWCO. The topic of research had meant that welfare would need close monitoring, with questions primarily focused on minimising unnecessary pain for the animals. All questions had been answered to the satisfaction and reassurance of AWERB.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

(b) Prof BB

The applicant had presented an overview of the intended work to AWERB, which was related to another license investigating bone scaffolds in sheep with a new focus upon cartilage healing.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NAWCO primarily focused upon the specifics of surgical interventions and administration of analgesia.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be approved subject to minor AWERB comments being addressed.

(c) Prof CC

The applicant had presented an overview of the intended work to AWERB which involved the study of methods of controlling bacterial infections in livestock.

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NAWCO primarily focused upon the specifics of monitoring and recording individual animal welfare and selection of animal models for the research.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application be approved subject to AWERB comments being addressed.

(d) Dr DD

The applicant had presented an overview of the intended work to AWERB which aimed to study the mechanisms and effects of hearing loss and tinnitus upon the brain

A series of comments on the application were made by the Primary Reader, NVS and NAWCO primarily focused upon the potential for adverse effects within the protocols and the possibility of dividing the application into two licenses.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that the application not be approved at this time with the recommendation to consult with the HOI and explore splitting the application into two licenses.

17/16 Retrospective Review of Project Licenses

(a) Prof EE

The retrospective review had been discussed and approved by members.

(b) Mr FF

The retrospective review had been discussed and approved by members.

17/17 3Rs meeting – September 2017

REPORTED: An update on the upcoming 3Rs meeting was provided, including a draft agenda. The annual meeting would be a collaborative effort with Universities of Leicester and Birmingham, with the University of Nottingham to host the first event.

17/18 Feedback from NC3Rs Experimental Design Assistant workshops

REPORTED: Attendance at the workshops had been good, though feedback from participants had not yet been received. The Experimental Design Assistant (EDA) had been discussed as something that could be highlighted to early career researchers or incorporated into lectures for PhD students.

17/19 Approvals by Fast-Track Procedure for Report

REPORTED: Three licence amendments had been approved by Fast-Track procedure.

17/20 Any other business

REPORTED: The recent audit of the Home Office Licensee Training Course had gone well. It was confirmed that the UoN had received accreditation for its licensee training courses until summer 2021.