
Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 27 February 2018 at 2pm in Camden Council Room VIDEOLINKED to F82, Hawkshead

Attendees: 10 members present; 2 in attendance; 10 apologies

1 WORKING GROUP UPDATES

1.1 Environmental Enrichment Working Group

The first draft of the report following the environmental enrichment audit was with the Working Group for comment. A summary of the recommendations would be provided for the annual meeting with the Home Office Inspector. The report would also be circulated to AWERB so that it could be discussed at the next meeting and decisions made on how to prioritise resources.

1.2 Rodent Handling Group

The clear tunnels had been ordered and had now arrived and were starting to be used.

2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the AWERB meeting held on 23 January 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record.

3 MATTERS ARISING

3.1 Item 3: ASRU Compliance Policy (23 January 2018 meeting):

A copy of this policy had been circulated along with a reminder of the Establishment Licence conditions. Interest was being determined in whether to offer a workshop on this topic.

3.2 Item 3: Culture of Care Workshop (January 2018 meeting):

A suitable date to run this workshop at the RVC was being looked into.

3.3 Item 5: Fish (January 2018 meeting)

A meeting was being arranged with the fish users to establish some new processes, such as ensuring that fish were sent off for sampling to try and work out what was causing the red belly "infection" in the fish, as the cause was unknown.

3.4 Item 15: Harm benefit analysis (January 2018 meeting)

A copy of the Review of harm-benefit analysis in the use of animals in research document had been circulated to project and personal licence holders.

3.5 Item 4.3: Sharing resources working group (December 2017 meeting)

PIL and PPL Holders had been e-mailed to remind them of the sharepoint sharing site. IT had added the alert function to notify users of new posts on this site, so that people did not necessarily have to log on to know that tissues were available for sharing.

3.6 Item 5: Refresher training to PPL Holders (October 2017 meeting)

A refresher course for project licence holder was being designed. It would include case studies identifying how things could go wrong.

4 SCHEDULE 1 REGISTER REVIEW

The schedule 1 registers would be reviewed and the latest training dates added. Refresher training needed to be carried out every 3 years. If this had not been done, then users would need to come off the register. A reminder would be sent by the NACWOs to the people on the registers that this was the case.

The register needed to include anyone who was responsible for performing euthanasia under Schedule 1. The register needed to list the techniques and species for which the personnel have been assessed as being competent in.

5 CPD TRAINING PROGRAMME

The first training session had been scheduled for April and related to post mortem training.

Discussions were also underway about hosting seminars at the RVC with the first day for BSU staff and the second day for externals.

6 COLLABORATION WITH AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY (DISCUSSED AT DECEMBER 2017 MEETING)

The following responses had been received to the queries raised.

Were any adverse effects encountered in relation to the muscle biopsy?

There were no short-time side effects from the biopsy, such as bleeding during surgery. For the client horses there were no known long-term effects however, they all underwent tie-forward procedure at the same time, so it was perhaps difficult to be entirely sure. Each research horse had 3 biopsies done within 6 months, they did not develop DDSP or other palatal or laryngeal dysfunction, and on post-mortem the muscles did not present any scar or abnormalities on the site of the biopsies

Was informed consent obtained from owners prior to obtaining a muscle biopsy?

Yes, they signed a form that was specific for this research.

AWERB confirmed that they were happy with the clarification of these points and were happy for the study to go ahead.

7 PROJECT LICENCES GRANTED

AWERB noted that one project licence had been granted by the Home Office since the January AWERB meeting.

8 PROJECT LICENCES AMENDED

AWERB noted that three project licences had been amended since the January AWERB meeting.

9 STUDY REQUEST FORMS

AWERB noted that there had been one study request submitted. AWERB had requested to see individual studies as they came through in order to ensure that they were appropriately designed and asking appropriate questions in line of the purpose of the project licence.

10 CONDITION 18 REPORTS

AWERB noted that one condition 18 report had been submitted. The report had been discussed with the Home Office Inspector who had advised that no further action was required.

11 NVS REPORT

11.1 Camden report

AWERB noted this report.

11.2 Hawkshead report

An update for Hawkshead was received.

12 FEEDBACK FROM LONDON AWERB UK HUB MEETING

The Chair of AWERB had attended the recent London AWERB UK Hub meeting. It had become clear that most AWERB were facing similar questions and that they all operated slightly differently. The Hub had been impressed that our AWERB met monthly and arranged for project licence holders to attend when applying for new or amendments to licences.

There had been discussion about organising training that discussed experimental design and statistical approaches to power calculations and controls in studies. A networking workshop had been suggested where the aim would be to share experience and ideas.

13 ARRIVE GUIDELINES

A query was raised about what steps were taken to ensure that researchers followed ARRIVE Guidelines. It was noted that there were ARRIVE based protocols that could be used for some studies. For manuscripts that were submitted through the online submission system, a check was made to see whether the ARRIVE guidelines had been followed and when researchers submitted their mid term or end of project reports they were asked this as standard.

It was agreed that researchers should be reminded of the importance of following the ARRIVE guidelines and that they should be promoted within the Units. The protocol that had been had put together also needed to be publicised.

Secretary

5 March 2018