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**Minutes:** AWERB

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**Status:** Chair approved

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**Meeting held:** 19 July 2018 at 2pm in U5 Camden videolinked to CEEED seminar room

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**Attendees:** 6 members present; 2 in attendance; 2 by invitation; 8 apologies.

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## **1 SOURCING OF ANIMALS FOR ANATOMY TEACHING – UPDATE**

The anatomy team were welcomed to the meeting. They were attending to report back to AWERB on their pony sourcing for the anatomy practicals that had taken place earlier in the year involving ponies euthanased for other reasons. They were pleased to report that it had all gone as planned.

The practicals had gone well, with the cadavers delivered on time and the tissues were in good condition so could be used by the students.

AWERB were pleased to hear this update.

## **2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record.

## **3 MATTERS ARISING**

### **3.1 Item 1: Project Licence (June 2018 meeting)**

This project licence had been amended, reviewed and submitted to the Home Office.

### **3.2 Item 2: Mid term and end of project reviews (June 2018 meeting)**

Copies of templates used by other AWERBs for project reviews had been obtained. These would be reviewed to see if there were key questions that the College could incorporate into our forms.

AWERB were keen that the animal technicians got involved into inputting into these reports as they had a valuable contribution to make as they were involved in the project and the husbandry of the animals.

### **3.3 Item 6.7: Virtual tour of BSU (June 2018 meeting)**

It was anticipated that filming could start for the virtual tour of the Units from November.

### **3.4 Item 11: Training Records (June 2018 meeting)**

A sample copy of the training folder would be circulated soon.

### **3.5 Item 7: Lab Animal Workshop (March 2018 meeting)**

The proposed workshop had been discussed at the recent London AWERB Hub meeting. The workshop would be directed at non-scientists that sat on AWERBs. The Hub would be applying for funding from Laboratory Animals Ltd to cover some of the costs of putting on the workshop.

The goal of the workshop was to provide non-experts with a basic understanding of good experimental design to underpin experimental animal use that would generate meaningful results and to give them confidence to ask questions about the experimental design. It would be for 4 hours. There would be a couple of interactive type lectures, including case studies that would be critiqued by attendees in small groups. There should be space for about 50 people, with each member of the Hub (there were 12 in total) encouraged to send a couple of people from their organisations and the other spaces filled through advertising more widely. There was a quick discussion about who should be involved from the RVC and it was suggested that it should be a technician and a lay member that attended.

There would also be a poster session that this AWERB should contribute to, identifying the initiatives we have been involved in over the past couple of years that we would like to highlight such as:

- Environmental Enrichment Audit
- Tunnel handling of mice

#### **4 CONDITION 18 REPORTS**

One condition 18 report had been submitted to the Home Office.

#### **5 ESTABLISHMENT LICENCE**

AWERB noted the recent changes that had been made to the Establishment Licence including the addition of temporary surgical suites and changes to some of the named roles.

#### **6 NEW PROJECT LICENCES GRANTED BY THE HOME OFFICE**

AWERB noted that there had been one new project licence granted.

#### **7 STUDY REQUESTS**

AWERB noted that there had been two new study requests approved.

#### **8 WORKING GROUPS REVIEW**

##### **8.1 Environmental Enrichment Working Group**

It was reported that the undergraduate projects for students had not yet been advertised, so it was not known if there was any interest in the environmental enrichment project that had been put forward.

A meeting was being arranged to discuss following up the environmental enrichment audit report including putting together a development plan. It was also agreed that updates should be given to the User group meetings (held twice yearly) on environmental enrichment and projects that the EE group were keen on trialling. Recent examples included placing car wash brushes in the pig sties' so that the pigs could rub themselves against them. The brushes were soft so would not damage their skin; paddling pools for the ferrets to use during the hot weather and enrichment being placed at different levels for the rabbits to encourage them to move more.

For the proposed enrichment competition, it was suggested that the competition could involve trialling an enrichment idea with the view of presenting a poster at a suitable conference (such as the IAT congress). The successful person would then be funded to go to the conference to present the poster so spreading the ideas further. AWERB confirmed they were supportive in principle of the idea.

##### **8.2 Euthanasia Working Group**

Progress on this working group was discussed. It was noted that a 3Rs euthanasia project was being developed. Investment however was needed to develop the prototype system and test it. It was reported that a presentation at the recent UFAW conference had outlined that by refining IP injections

of Pentobarbital with local anaesthetics it massively reduced the signs of pain but without affecting scientific viability, which seemed to be an effective refinement. It was agreed that a copy of this abstract should be placed on the Users News Forum.

## **9 LONDON AWERB HUB**

### **9.1 17 July 2018 meeting**

The latest London AWERB Hub meeting had been very well attended. The aim of these Hub meetings was to provide opportunity to exchange ideas and experiences on how the different AWERB function.

The following key items were discussed:

- Information had been shared on policy and procedures for allowing out of hours surgery in units.
- Project licences that were due to expire: the issue of project licences that are about to expire but no replacement licence had been submitted was raised. This was a problem for those licences that involve animal breeding as these needed a current project licence. The consensus was that this was not a problem that could easily be resolved. The AWERB Hub had agreed that a Home Office Inspector should be invited to the next meeting to have a further discussion about this issue and how best to resolve it.

### **9.2 Redacted minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018**

AWERB noted the redacted minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2018. The intention was for UCL to place these minutes on their website.

There had been discussions on how frequently the different AWERBs met and how they dealt with project licence applications.

AWERB were keen to have the opportunity to attend other institutions AWERBs to see how they functioned and what they discussed. They were also happy to host members from other institutions. A request would be submitted to the Chair of the Hub to see if this was possible.

## **10 ASSESSORS LIST REVIEW**

AWERB reviewed the current assessors list. It was noted that several names needed to be removed as people had left the College. It was also noted that there were several gaps, where replacement assessors needed to be identified

## **11 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION**

### **11.1 UFAW Animal Welfare Conference**

At this conference there had been more focus on lab animals than there had been previously. There had been several interesting abstracts including one on identification marking by tattooing. The standard tattooing machine causes substantial bruising and inflammation. However although tattooing may be more painful than ear-tagging or restraint, this initial welfare cost was probably offset against the potential scientific benefits of tattooing in mice: permanency of the tattoo; easier and more accurate to read, so resulting in subsequent stress-free identification compared to the other methods.

The College had been involved in several presentations at the Conference. Copies of the abstracts would be circulated for information.

### **11.2 Conferences generally**

A reminder would be circulated to Users asking them that if they were attending conferences and learnt something interesting from them (eg 3Rs suggestion or something scientific that would make a

difference to laboratory or experimental animals) then AWERB would be interested so that this could be disseminated through the Users News Forum.

## **12 ESTATES ISSUES**

### **12.1 Building work at Camden**

Following the building work taking place at Camden, several concerns had been raised. It had therefore been agreed that the builders would adjust how they were working in order to make the area more accessible and safer for staff and the animals.

### **12.2 Fire alarm in Camden Unit**

There was concern that the fire alarm noise might be affecting the animals as it seemed very loud. It was known that another institute had done some sound studies to see what impact sound had on animals so this institute was being contacted. Discussions were also being held with other units to see what fire alarm systems that they used.

### **12.3 Hawkshead Unit**

Due to refurbishment, temporary surgical suites have been added to another building.

## **13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **13.1 Dog training**

A query was raised about how the training of the puppies was going. It was reported that in the main it was going well, in particular the lead training around the campus. The puppies were definitely a lot calmer since the new training regime was introduced. Weekly meetings were being held to discuss training and the behaviour of the dogs. It was also an opportunity to feed back where there were concerns about the behaviour of any of the animals or where there was improvement. A lot of the dogs had been rehomed recently with feedback being received on how well adjusted the dogs were.

### **13.2 Home Office Annual Statistics**

The Home Office have published their Annual Statistics of Scientific Procedures on Living Animals. This had been circulated to AWERB and was well worth having a look at.

### **13.3 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for 30<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm.

Secretary

27 July 2018