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**Summary Minutes:** AWERB (Standard Agenda items meeting)

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**Status:** Chair approved

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**Meeting held:** 11 May 2021 at 11am via MS Teams

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**Present**

Attendees: 6, plus 2 in attendance, 2 by invitation and 10 apologies

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**1 DISCUSSION ON DMD DOGS**

The Project Licence Holder and a Canine Reproduction Specialist were welcomed to the meeting. Following previous discussions at AWERB it had been decided to invite the project licence holder and the canine reproduction specialist to review the approaches to the breeding of the dogs and establish some local rules for breeding. There had been some recent issues in relation to breeding from two of the older dogs and AWERB were keen to prevent issues in the future by establishing formal guidelines for when to breed from the dogs, which incorporated the parameters of the wellbeing of the animals and the requirements of the research for future breeding decisions, so that all were clear and agreed and would aid future decision making.

As the NVS could not make the meeting, he had prepared a document that summarised his thoughts on factors that should be considered for deciding whether to breed bitches post whelping. Apologies were given to the Project Licence Holder that a copy of the document had not been provided to him or to the Canine Reproduction Specialist in advance of the meeting. The aim of this meeting was to have a first look at this document to see what further information was needed and to obtain initial views. There were some recommendations in the paper, but other factors needed to be considered so further work needed to be done.

Several points were discussed including consideration of:

- Perinatal mortality/stillborn death rate in the colony
- Age: including the ideal age to breed from a dog and also the impact on the number of pups weaned.
- Parity and litter size
- How long the dogs had been with the colony

It was confirmed that the aim of the guidelines was to help ensure that informed decisions were made outside of AWERB, and that AWERB were comfortable with the decision-making process around it. The guidelines were not intended to be a hard and fast set of rules. The guidelines would sit within the context of the licence, and also the context of the internal and external data around it as well as the economics of breeding in relation to the research project. There was some more work needed on this but AWERB were not aiming to repress the research that was being done but they did need to ensure that the welfare of the dogs was not being compromised (which it was recognised was important to all involved).

## **RVC – Minutes: AWERB: 11 May 2021**

The Canine Reproductive Specialist and the Project Licence Holder were thanked for attending the meeting. Further discussions were needed to agree the set of local rules and guidelines but a start had been made.

### **2 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 April 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record.

### **3 ACTION LOG**

#### **3.1 Item 4.2: Breeding and colony management (27 April 2021 meeting)**

The agenda item to review how things were progressing and whether there had been notable changes had been scheduled for the February 2022 meeting.

#### **3.2 Item 5.4: Anatomy pony (12 March 2021)**

The initial boots sourced for the pony had been a poor fit and would have caused significant rubbing. A different pair had now been ordered and were expected soon.

### **4 REVIEW AWERB TERMS OF REFERENCE**

As the NVS and the Camden and Hawkshead NACWOs had sent their apologies, it was agreed that this item would be rolled over to the next meeting. Once they had been reviewed in full, it was agreed that for future reviews, a couple of items would be reviewed at each meeting to make sure they were being met and to provide members with an opportunity to refresh themselves of their responsibilities and whether any changes were needed.

It was noted that an amendment was needed to include mention that the Establishment Licence Holder would attend these meetings as an occasional attendee.

### **5 INITIAL THOUGHTS ON THE PPL REVIEWS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT**

It was agreed that this item would also be rolled over to the next meeting as the main project licence reviewers were not at the meeting, so it was not known if they had started using the guidance document.

### **6 NACWO REPORTS**

This item was deferred to the next meeting as apologies had been received from the Camden and Hawkshead NACWOs.

### **7 NVS REPORT**

AWERB noted the paper that had been provided by the NVS.

### **8 ASSESSORS LIST REVIEW**

This was reviewed.

### **9 END OF PROJECT LICENCE REVIEWS**

Two end of project licence reviews were noted.

**10 CONDITION 18 REPORTS**

A condition 18 report was noted including the investigations that had happened and the resulting changes that had been put in place.

**11 STUDY REQUESTS APPROVED BY AWERB**

AWERB noted that there had been one study request approved since the previous meeting.

**12 AMENDED PROJECT LICENCES**

AWERB noted that two project licence amendments had been approved by the Home Office since the previous meeting.

**13 FUTURE MEETINGS:**

- **Were AWERB members happy to continue with the current format of fortnightly AWERB meetings: one focussing on standard items and one on PPL reviews?**  
This would be discussed at the next meeting where there should be more people in attendance. The initial views were that having split the meetings into two, these were more functional this way and that it ensured that standard agenda items were covered.
- **August: traditionally there have been no AWERB meetings in August. What did AWERB want to do this year?**  
This would also be discussed at the next meeting. It was possible that one meeting might be needed in the first part of August.

**14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 26 May. This would be the PPL review meeting.

Secretary  
24 May 2021