
Summary Minutes: AWERB

Status: Chair approved

Meeting held: 09 November 2021 at 10.30am via MS Teams

Present:

Attendees: 11 plus 1 in attendance and 5 apologies.

1

REHOMING DOG QUERY

The Chair asked for AWERB's advice on a dog that was due to be rehomed. It was explained that it had been agreed to rehome one of the females. Her last litter had been about 8 months previously, but the whelping had been a difficult process as her vulva got torn by one of the puppies. She had responded well to treatment though. She was a very friendly dog and there had been no concerns within the unit about her suitability for rehoming.

The previous Tuesday the dog had been spayed and had a cosmetic vulvoplasty by one of the QMH surgeons. The surgery had gone well, as had the initial recovery. To protect the incisions, she had been given a soft, inflatable buster collar, so that she could not lick the area. However, she had pulled it off, so this had been replaced with a more typical buckethead buster collar. As soon as she was left alone though she had tried desperately to get the collar off. It was decided she could not be left on her own so she was placed in the QMH for the night so they could monitor her and provide her with company. The next day she was brought into one of the offices for monitoring and had shown no abnormal behaviour. In the evening she was returned to the QMH, whilst a plan was decided on the next steps for her.

One of the small animal specialist vets, who had already registered her interest in rehoming a dog, had come forward with an offer to rehome the dog with her and her family. A long discussion was held with her to explain the dog's medical history as she had a history of "cherry eye". This had not caused the dog any problems previously, but following the recovery from the spay, one part of the cherry eye had come out and remained out and was showing signs of inflammation so would need veterinary attention. It was also explained that the dog should not be left on her own whilst she became familiar with her new environment and that she should not experience too many new stimuli at once. The clinician had confirmed that she was keen to provide a permanent long-term home for the dog and that as she was due to be off clinics for two weeks this was an ideal time for the dog to be rehomed with her as she could spend time looking after her and getting her adjusted to her new home environment. It was agreed that this sounded like the best option for the dog: it would remove the requirement for her having to stay in the QMH overnight and provide a veterinary home for her to look after her wounds. The dog had therefore gone with the clinician that Friday. The clinician had been given a pamphlet setting out the best way to settle the dog into her new home.

No problems had been reported over the weekend, but early the previous day (Monday) there had been an e-mail from the clinician, who had advised that the situation was not working out with the dog. Following a conversation with the clinician it turned out that the dog had been exposed to too many stimuli and had got very stressed and had started scratching at carpets, chewing the rugs and displaying signs of anxiety.

Upon hearing this, it was quickly arranged for the dog to be collected and to be placed in a calm environment with a foster home to reduce the stress to the dog. This foster home had previously looked after a dog that had been in a difficult veterinary situation and had done a very good job whilst a new home was looked for. The foster parents had been informed of what had happened so they were aware. Initial reports were that the dog had settled in very well and seemed calm and happy.

AWERB's opinion on the behaviours that the dog had displayed was requested as well as the way forward. After discussion it was decided that the behavioural issues were due to the stimuli she had encountered.

A query was raised whether the cherry eye would be easy to resolve. It was confirmed that the surgery was quite straightforward. If it went well the situation would resolve quickly, however there was a risk that the gland would need to be removed, so could require long term medical treatment with lubricating drops to the eye; there was also a risk of ulcers developing and eye infections.

It was agreed:

- Euthanasia was not an option.
- The behaviours that the dog had displayed should not be of a concern, as these were very understandable due to what she had faced.
- The dog should stay with her foster family whilst a new home was found. This would give her time to properly settle and see how she behaved.
- Surgery should be arranged for her cherry eye.

2 AWERB TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW

AWERB confirmed that they were content that they carried out the items listed under strategy and planning. They took the time to discuss these areas as applicable. Today's discussion about the dog was a classic example.

Strategy & Planning

- Promote a culture of care within the experimental animal units in particular and the College in general with respect to the use of animals in research and teaching
- Consider and make recommendations to EWC for the development, review and monitoring of policy for ethical aspects of College research
- Have oversight of the College's performance in terms of the ethics of research conducted by college staff and students and to direct or recommend such actions as to address any shortcomings
- Provide guidance and advice to College staff and students regarding the ethics of their research or related activities.
- Review periodically the members of the Board to ensure a balanced and suitable membership

3 MINUTES

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

4 MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Item 3.1: Condition 18 training (27 October 2021 meeting)

It was reported that the NTCOs and NVS had raised some queries at the condition 18 training workshops that they had attended. These were being addressed by the Home Office.

A copy of the slides from the workshop had been received. Training would now be arranged for project licence holders, using these slides as a basis. The aim was to ensure that everyone was clear

when and how to submit condition 18 forms.

Mortality percentage and what was appropriate and how this information could be found had been raised at the workshops. The Home Office were going to go back and have discussions with senior staff about this. It was noted that it was possible to obtain standard mortality rates but whether these rates applied from unit to unit would depend on the microbiome and other factors. It would therefore be important to ensure that any figures were heavily caveated. If the microbiomes were different then the mortality rates were likely to be different too.

4.2 Item 3.4: Keeping large animals at Camden (27 October 2021 meeting)

There were no planned appointments with the fire brigade coming up. Instead a contact name had been provided to liaise directly with about access points.

4.3 Item 3.5: Fish Users meeting (27 October 2021 meeting)

The aim was to move away from squeezing fish by training people in different methods. An update was needed from the person who had volunteered to do the training to see what progress had been made.

4.4 Item 3.7: Establishment Licence (27 October 2021 meeting)

One of the project licence holders had checked and confirmed that he could not see the room or PIL details of the establishment licence when he was logged into ASPeL.

4.5 Item 3.9: ARRIVE compliance report (27 October 2021 meeting)

The Sub Group were working on the training content for the proposed workshop. The delivery approach would be a combination of pre-recorded videos and also a live practical exercise based session, which would involve working through a paper and assessing the key areas that needed to be focused on in order to ensure ARRIVE compliance. The workshop would be aimed at both PIL and PPL Holders who would be involved in writing papers. Suggestions on how to get engagement from the researchers were welcomed and would be discussed at the next AWERB.

It was noted that there were a number of refresher training sessions that needed to be delivered including:

- Condition 18 reports
- PPL refresher in general to remind PPLH of their responsibilities and the standard conditions
- ARRIVE guidelines

Discussions would be held with the Establishment Licence Holder about endorsing the workshops that were required. The focus should be short, sharp and snappy sessions to encourage people to attend.

4.6 Item 3.10: AWERB membership (27 October 2021 meeting)

The draft call for new internal lay panel members to join AWERB had been signed off. This would be circulated shortly.

4.7 Item 3.10: Rat playpens for improved welfare (5 October 2021 meeting)

Videos of the rats in their playpens had been taken. It was really nice seeing the rats play in their large play pens and having things to interact with.

4.8 Item 10: HOI comments on project licences via ASPeL (5 October 2021 meeting)

There was a meeting involving the Home Office coming up. The issue that the only way to access HOI comments on project licences seemed to be by going into ASPeL itself would be raised.

5 SCHEDULE 1 REGISTER REVIEW

5.1 Hawkshead Schedule 1 register

This was in the process of being updated to remove those people that had left.

5.2 Camden Schedule 1 register

This was also being reviewed to identify which people needed to be reassessed.

6 CONDITION 18 REPORT

6.1 Condition 18 report for pony (22 September 2021 meeting)

AWERB were reminded that it had been decided that a condition 18 form was required for this pony that had suffered from colic post-surgery and had to be euthanized, as it had not improved following treatment and started showing signs of outward pain. The Home Office had been in contact to discuss the report. It was possible the adverse effects in the licence might need to be amended.

7 FEEDBACK FROM PPL HOLDERS THAT ATTENDED PREVIOUS MEETINGS TO DISCUSS THEIR PROJECT LICENCE

The feedback form from the project licence holder was noted.

8 NEW PPLS GRANTED BY THE HOME OFFICE

AWERB noted that 2 project licences had been granted by the Home Office in October 2021.

9 AMENDED PPLS APPROVED BY THE HOME OFFICE

AWERB noted that the Home Office had approved 3 project licence amendments during October 2021.

10 REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS

As the meeting had run out of time, it was agreed that the remaining discussions items would be carried over to the next meeting.

11 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

This was scheduled for 24th November at 2pm

Secretary

11 November 2021