

Date: Friday, 20/02/26

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Matters arising from the previous minutes

No matters arising.

2. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

All the Home Office inspectors, apart from one, left at the end of January. The new inspectors have been helpful so far. One project licence has been pulled apart after being granted and put in for an amendment, so it is now having to be re-written. There is a concern that this will become standard as it will be difficult to keep up.

There is a Home Office Liaison, Training and Information (HOLTIF) meeting next week so there will hopefully be more updates then.

3. Training and Competencies

If any technician is going through the Technician Training Pathway, they do not need to fill out a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) form when they do the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT) course part. They do still need to fill out an application form. If a technician is on the Technician Training Pathway there is no requirement for them to pay back IAT funding if they leave within a year of completion or before completion.

Thank you to everyone for the feedback on the combined Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPS). The feedback has been collated and [REDACTED] and the Named Training and Competency Officers (NTCOs) will be discussing it on Thursday next week.

There was a discussion around the entry and exit DOPS being set at 20 years for a reassessment review. It was concluded that access wouldn't be stopped whilst waiting for a reassessment and reassessments will be on a case-by-case basis when there are issues. [REDACTED] will email the other [REDACTED] Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers (NACWOS) for their views and will let [REDACTED] know.

Action: [REDACTED] to email other [REDACTED] NACWOS regarding the 20 years review.

4. What is happening with animals, staff and researchers in your unit?

There is currently no replacement in surgery for [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. They are managing without him at the moment. There have been discussions about a grade 4 secondment until [REDACTED] comes back or that [REDACTED] will cover.

There have been some issues in [REDACTED] with imports.

There was good feedback on the new [REDACTED] boxes with them being found to be more robust.

At [REDACTED] there are new people with new PILs, and all the [REDACTED] technicians have been recruited.

There was a conversation about imports in terms of teeth and what is deemed as malocclusion. There have been inconsistencies in what terminology is used which affects whether an animal is kept or killed. Consistency would be helpful when contacting the suppliers to report issues. [REDACTED] will take this to the NACWO meeting at [REDACTED] for discussion. This will then be sent to the NTCOs to be distributed to all units.

Action: [REDACTED] to take the question about malocclusion to the NACWO meeting and send the feedback to the NTCOs.

5. Overview SC18's

December was one of the quietest months for Standard Condition 18's (SC18's) since recording. There were 12 SC18's submitted involving 20 animals. These were mostly unexpected adverse effects, there were a few procedure errors, four remain in breach, and four were unknown found dead. January is looking quiet so far.

6. Biofacility Infrastructure

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be getting new Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) drugs cabinets. These make recording more accurate as there will be no paper records. They are mainly for controlled drugs but will house other drugs too. The [REDACTED] cabinet will not house the controlled drugs for now. There are some flooring repairs that need to be done in all barrier areas. The survey is booked to be carried out.

7. Health and Safety (RA's, COSHH)

The safety audit was successful, but the full report has not yet been received.

8. Any other business

There was a post meeting note from the December meeting to say that following further discussion it has been agreed that although people would always be encouraged to use a physical method to kill animals such as cervical dislocation, people can't be forced to learn a physical method so any schedule 1 method should be suitable.

Date of next meeting: 20/03/26, MS Teams