



Date Friday, 17/12/2021

Time 1.30pm

To Committee Members

At Held virtually using MS Teams

Subject AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees:

Apologies:

Minutes:

Mentioned within text:

1. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on 26th November 2021 were approved.

2. Matters arising

None

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report

It was noted there is a need to declare any conflicts of interest if anyone has the ability to influence decisions raised on the agenda.

Concerns raised by the committee have been taken to the Home Office. The main concern is still inconsistency of advice from the Inspectors. ■ reported experiencing similar problems.

Instances of animals being left without water and animals being left in transport boxes have occurred. It was reported that the PEL Standard Condition need to be adhered to as well as the PPL Standard Conditions. Any instances should be flagged to the UBS Licence Managers so an initial report can be written.

4. Licensing update; SC18; legislation; welfare issues; Home Office inspections

19 Standard Condition 18 reports have been submitted since the last meeting. The main concern is for a researcher who has submitted 12 reports this year, 7 of which are repeats over rapid tumour growth exceeding 10% weight limit. These are being investigated by the Home Office.

After reporting a mouse found dead over 5 days, the Home Office have advised that the expectation is that mouse litters should be counted at the next routine daily check. It was confirmed most facilities do a rough count but do not disturb the pups and are only counted at 5 days old. ■ was told by the HO to submit a Standard Condition 18 report for all GA animals. Other establishments are waiting for HO advice on Standard Condition 18 reports. ■ has chased the advice but nothing has been received. It was suggested the number of pups should not be entered on to MCMS until day 5 so the numbers are accurate.

5. Non-regulated procedures

It was requested that more notice is given when submitting non-regulated procedure forms.

[REDACTED]
No comments.

[REDACTED]
It was queried whether surplus animals can be sourced. It was suggested that any unused dams could be passed on to [REDACTED] for teaching.

6. Discussion of animal production, care and use; animal accommodation; animal health issues; animal models; animal transport; health screening

The internal Transport Policy underwent a review and has been circulated. The policy is not new, it has been amended to add the [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] asked for the [REDACTED] risk assessment. These will be sent with the minutes and added to the website.

7. Good practice; training and competencies

The PIL Course Module 3.2 and 8 assessment forms currently need a separate assessor and demonstrator. The UTG will be asked whether this is necessary, as there is no requirement in the learning outcomes. The committee were asked what training the facilities require for those who are only doing Schedule 1 procedures and do not hold a personal licence. Module 6.3 (Function D) is a standalone mandatory module for anyone Schedule 1 killing. Considerations need to be made for those who are competent in the techniques but have not carried out the training. Animal technicians fall under Function C which incorporates the 6.3 training. However, Function C training is not yet mandatory. The UTG have been asked what other establishments do. [REDACTED] is preparing a Module 6.3 course which will be accredited. It was confirmed that in most cases, senior animal technicians carry out the training for Schedule 1 and UBS staff will always sign off.

8. Staffing; management and operation processes

None

9. 3Rs; rehoming; outreach and openness

The University has won an openness award for the best animal research website. Congratulations were given to [REDACTED] in the communications team and [REDACTED] for her help.

A CAST (Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology) event is taking place in January. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will be giving talks.

A meeting has taken place regarding filming at the [REDACTED]. The communications team will do a feature about a day in the life of an animal technician. Everyone involved will remain anonymous. The predicted completion time for the feature is June 2022.

The UBS website is currently being updated. The committee were asked to complete a small questionnaire to help streamline the website.

10. Any other business

In 2022 a security review of the operations of UBS will be commissioned. An external security contract is already in place, which provides UBS with ongoing security information. Everyone was advised to be vigilant but [REDACTED] can be contacted with concerns.

UBS staff have been sent gift vouchers by email for Christmas.

Date of next meeting: Friday 21st January 2022