

Date: Friday, 17/03/2023

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: Held virtually using MS Teams

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

The previous minutes were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

There are ongoing discussions with [REDACTED] about refining their microchipping processes. Full update not yet available.

Malocclusion feedback was given. The Health check SOP should be reviewed to include a teeth check. Additionally, new users should be trained in what to look out for. [REDACTED] have implemented a trial with an extra check of mice at six weeks of age but that hasn't yielded any results so it will be moved to 12 weeks and will be reviewed. All staff at [REDACTED] were also reassessed with their handling technique. A management of malocclusion SOP will be drafted, the colony management group will discuss breeding out, there will be an early signs poster with photos of older mice and there will be a mandatory malocclusion workshop.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

[REDACTED] update provided; the facility has been fogged with Neopredisan and will be decontaminated this weekend with a view to moving the equipment back in the week after next.

A new additional NIO role has been advertised.

A reminder that most PEL amendments take 40 working days and it takes 20 working days for a named person. As there are no on-site inspections the Home Office ask for photos and environmental data even if it's changes or amendments to an existing area on the PEL.

A survey was sent out through the Animal Welfare Management Discussion Group and the Home Office Liaison, Training and Information Forum Group regarding people's thoughts on how the Home Office is managing things.

4. What is happening in your unit?

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

Feedback was given on the Colony Management Group meeting- A guidance document of useful information was presented by [REDACTED], Senior Animal Technician, that she is using at [REDACTED] to train people. This will need to be redistributed once the temperatures have been reviewed against the Code of Practice. The feedback at the Colony Management meeting was positive. There was a discussion around colony management and assessment and an update will be given in a future meeting. A colony management page will be launched on the UBS website in the future. The organising group for the colony management group is [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. There has been no interest from researchers to volunteer. There were also very few technicians in the meeting. Could NACWO's encourage technicians to get involved?

[REDACTED] mentioned a webinar that [REDACTED] has recommended regarding stress reduction through training, and thought it could be something facilities could look at trialling- NC3Rs webinar regarding stress reduction through management and training of laboratory animals at RISE, Research Institutes of Sweden, in Södertälje, Sweden. <https://www.ri.se/en/what-we-do/expertises/3r-focus-on-animal-welfare>

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

No matters.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

No matters.

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

No update on RCA's but learning cards are in progress. In the last month there have been 32 Standard condition 18's submitted and repeat concerns were microchips, gavage, mis-dose, restraint, weight loss and tumour overgrowth.

6. Non-regulated Procedures

No comment on the [REDACTED] non-reg.

The licence managers and [REDACTED] have been working on changes to the form that will go through AWERB.

7. Biofacility Infrastructure

No matters.

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

No matters.

9. Training and Competencies

Discussion around some of the users taking the DOPS from the Moodle page rather than MCMS. The Moodle site has now been edited to make it clear which DOPS should be used and provide additional guidance.

There was a conversation around whether researchers need to do five supervised assessments when they become assessors. They only need to do one supervised assessment either by one of the assessors in the unit, by ■■■ or ■■■ or another assessor. ■■■ will be doing a QA with all of the assessors. It needs to be emphasised to the assessors that it is their responsibility to be assessing their group up to a certain standard.

There was a query about the difference in criteria between the assessors that are currently assessing in the facilities. The standard for the researcher assessors is the same for the UBS assessors. As this is just being rolled out there will be a period where the number of assessors is being built up.

There was a question about who will put the assessments on the system. There will be a new level created on MCMS for researcher assessors so they will be able to assess within a group those linked to the project licence.

10. Any other business

The health concerns list on MCMS is being refined with duplicates being removed and changes to wording. This has almost been completed for mice and then the other species will be looked at. NACWO's will be asked for their comments soon.

Several UBS named persons presented at CAST, UTC and aquatics presented on environmental enrichment in February. ■■■ will be taking three posters, ■■■ will be presenting on the frog clinical signs and ■■■ will be presenting on RCA's at congress. ■■■ has recently collaborated with the CRICK on writing a talk about rederivation programme for the removal of myocardial bacterium marinum from guppies. This was presented by the CRICK at ANZAAP in February <https://anzaap.org.au/>

■■■ thank you for all for the posters for the Cambridge Festival. There have been lots of offers of help. It will be at the family weekend on the New Museum site on the 25th and 26th March 2023, in Student Services on the New Museum site. Full details are on the website <https://www.festival.cam.ac.uk/events/how-many-rs-are-there-really-biomedical-research>.

There was a conversation about the timings the NACWO's would prefer to have the Projects Support Team (PST) training.

■■■ asked if emails could be sent to her with examples of what the facilities do when they transfer an animal to another facility internally. There was a discussion around which form to use. It was agreed that the new form would be separated from the transportation document and will be put on the website and distributed for everyone to use old forms must be deleted.



A question was asked about whether the NACWO's should have notifications from the MCMS regarding ages of animals and if numbers are being reached per protocol. It was agreed that [REDACTED] could do whatever was easiest.

There was a discussion around whether there should be a designated email address for NACWO's. It was agreed this would be trialled but emails should clearly state what they are regarding in the subject line.

Date of next meeting:

Friday 21st April 2023 Group 3. In person at [REDACTED].