



Date: Friday, 20/10/2023

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

After some minor changes, the minutes from September were approved.

2. Matters Arising

There was a request for a list of feedback to be sent to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] following the Home Office visit. So far, the only feedback received is from the facility tours.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

The outcome of the audit is not yet available.

[REDACTED] rooms are now on the PEL and being populated. [REDACTED] is now off the PEL and [REDACTED] has been added as temporary NACWO.

4. What is happening in your unit?

[REDACTED] is leaving Tuesday 24th October. The post has not yet been advertised.

[REDACTED] has been having issues with animal deliveries from [REDACTED]. Some boxes have been arriving without hydrogel. [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Named Persons and [REDACTED] will be having a meeting with [REDACTED]. A message will be sent to NACWOs ahead of the meeting to see if other facilities are having the same issue.

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?



The main fish room at [REDACTED] is being shut down and the tanks are being moved to the smaller room as the numbers of fish have reduced. The lamprey tank is set up and ready for their arrival at the end of November.

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

There are now 22 [REDACTED] technicians, 11 of them are temp to perm. The new facility manager for [REDACTED] will be starting in around three months.

There was a conversation around [REDACTED] who would like to stay longer. It was agreed she could stay for longer.

A new permanent grade 3, [REDACTED] has been appointed in [REDACTED].

We are struggling for service techs now but an advert should be going out soon.

We have a new UBS Senior HR Coordinator [REDACTED] who started three weeks ago.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

The Colony Management group now has its own page on the UBS website with useful links and resources. Feedback on the new design will be welcomed.

Surgery and Tamoxifen guidance will go on the 3R's page of the website.

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

There has been a large backlog on the learning cards but there has been progress with this and five sets were tabled at the meeting. Feedback is welcome. There was a discussion about how these should be distributed. It was suggested they could go on the files page on Teams.

There have been 36 SC18's this month. Repeat concerns included: Compound (AAV, Cytokine, Pharmacokinetics, LPS, Chemo) Weight loss, and Microchip.

6. Non-regulated Procedures

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

There was a discussion around whether the specifics of how the animals will be killed should be noted. This information has not been included as it will depend on where the animals come from. It was agreed that this information does not need to be included.

This application has been given a four-year duration. The form says 12 months but the non-reg form is in the process of being changed. It was agreed that this text would be removed and could be extended to the end of 2027.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

How many pups are needed?

The application says they will use P0-P9 pups and then goes on to say they will use P0-3 pups.

The applicant needs to state which other UBS facilities they have approached.

It will be requested that the mum is killed first to minimise stress to her.

The start date has changed to 01/10/23.

7. Biofacility Infrastructure

If there are any urgent facility requests contact [REDACTED]

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

Facility visits have been started with [REDACTED]. The visit to [REDACTED] was yesterday, and [REDACTED] is next month. The rest of [REDACTED] will be at the end of November. [REDACTED] will be in February. Risk assessments and general tours are still being encouraged.

9. Training and Competencies

There are dates for in-person Train the Trainer and Nominated Assessors courses on the website for next year.

On 27th October [REDACTED] will be with [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] all day to do a MCMS drop-in session. The team that put MCMS together will also be there in the afternoon.

People need to be aware of the difference in exsanguination and cessation of circulation when recording confirmation of death on MCMS. People have been exsanguinating but recording cessation of circulation. If they don't know the difference they should check before they record it.

[REDACTED] has been sending funding forms to HR for Train the Trainer but has not heard back. [REDACTED] confirms with the individuals Manager and [REDACTED] to confirm whether the applicant's funding application has been approved. [REDACTED] should email [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to see which funding has been agreed.

10. Any other business

The [REDACTED] and University of Cambridge Symposium event is on Friday 8th December 9am – 4pm. Posters or presentations should be submitted by 31st October via the link on the events page on the UBS website. Please also RSVP via this link.

Last Saturday 14th October [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had a stand at The Big Biology Day at [REDACTED]. The stand was attended by all ages from toddlers up.

In November there will be a [#FishInResearch](#), where fish in research will take over social media, and the main University of Cambridge social media channels will do a post for us which will link to the University page on fish use. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will post what they do with zebrafish. [REDACTED] is interested in doing some bits about cichlids.

[REDACTED] has sent out three bulletins so far on the 3RsEnquiries list and has had no known negative feedback. [REDACTED] have appreciated receiving them.

One bulletin was targeted at aquatics which went to the PPLhs which have fish licences, and [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will look on the K drive on the non-reg spreadsheet to see who is using which species to aid with distributing the bulletin.

There is now a 3D printed mouse tail which can be used for tail vein injection training. [REDACTED] has ordered one.



The fish user group will be 21st November. All the fish users are getting together at [REDACTED]. Each lab will give a 10-minute presentation to each other. Everyone welcome.

People are encouraged to sign up to ARC Forums Initiative by [REDACTED]. It will be £20 per head, per year, people must sign up to RAT to have access.

IAT Congress will be in Aberdeen. Bookings closed last Friday.

There is an import/export document for fish. It has been sent to [REDACTED] and will be forwarded to users when it has been checked. It will also go on the website with the rodent transport policy.

A zebrafish stock request group has been created which will hopefully reduce the number of fish imported to the UK. [REDACTED] will speak to NC3Rs and the RSPCA to see if they can push it out wider. [REDACTED] currently maintains the list but then the technicians will do it while [REDACTED] is on maternity leave.

There was a question about if there was more information about the 3 H's. [REDACTED] will have more information about this from LAVA.

Date of next meeting: Friday 17th November 2023, [REDACTED] in person.