

Date: Friday, 21/04/23

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

Minutes from 17th March were agreed as a true record except for changes in Matters Arising. Mentions of [REDACTED] should actually be [REDACTED].

2. Matters Arising

None

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

No recent Home Office updates but there will be a HOLTIF meeting in a couple of weeks. A UAR #Mice in Research social media event will be taking place between 9th - 12 May. UBS will not be directly involved but the research team will be posting information on UBS behalf.

Reminder that if PEL amendments are made it is worth checking that ASPEL is up to date.

4. What is happening in your unit?

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

There is still no working cage wash in [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] are currently washing the cages but there is a concern that it is too much for them due to staffing. There will be someone sent specifically to wash cages in [REDACTED]. There are also no fire alarms in the building. [REDACTED] surgery is still out of action as the ceiling hasn't been fixed since the flood. [REDACTED] (new researcher coming from [REDACTED]) brought 100 breeding cages two weeks ago and 45 breeding cages brought over today. There are Category 2 animals on the list to be brought from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] but they have been told they won't be accepted as they have not had health screens. There is a problem with humidity in [REDACTED]. There has been another Auto watering incident in [REDACTED], this time with 17 pups.

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

Ok for staff at junior level. A couple of new starters for [REDACTED]. Looking for a temp for [REDACTED] is losing a member of staff and [REDACTED] is losing a senior and a T3. There was a question about where the techs from [REDACTED] are. One is in [REDACTED], one is with [REDACTED] and one is with [REDACTED]. Because two temp to perm staff have left, there is currently no ability to provide bank staff.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

Some new users will be coming to [REDACTED] which may mean they will have to use the rooms at [REDACTED] but some work needs to be done before the rooms can be used. There has been a contractor employed to fix the problem with the paintwork. There was a discussion around using 3 rooms that remain on the PEL at [REDACTED] for behavioural work. The animals will be transported backwards and forward to [REDACTED] facility.

Surgery tech group meetings will now be held every six months instead of every four months but can be brought forward for very urgent matters. It was mentioned that there have been incidents of users putting mice that have had surgery in with mice that have not had surgery and they have been fighting and also incident regarding timing of recovery checks. It was agreed that wording could go on the post-op form and also some tips on post-op care, and useful key words could be run through the surgery group and then fed into AWERB 3R's.

The Colony Management meeting hasn't been held since the last AOC but there is one scheduled for next week which will be fed back to the next AOC.

An email was sent to users this week to remind them to fill in the culling register on MCMS which includes the killing and confirmation method used. The report will continue to be run once a week and the reminder will then go to repeat offenders. The developers do not have the capacity to make this mandatory at the moment.

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

RCA Learning cards were on the table for the committee to look at. They will be sent out to the committee to take back to facilities. It was agreed they could be put on Moodle and under the RCA section of the website.

There have been 43 HO Standard Condition 18's in the last month. The commonalities have been weight loss. A few of those have been due to doxycycline. Other commonalities are microchip bruising and haemorrhage, nose bleeds, Tamoxifen animals, and metastatic tumour.

6. Non-regulated Procedures

[REDACTED]
Could your work be undertaken using surplus stock animals- more information required?
Source, amount and duration of funding for this project.

██████████

If individually, why is this necessary, and how long will your animals be individually housed?

Only adolescent males which are aggressive (fighting) to cage mates- Is this also true of rats?

Amount and duration of funding for this project.

Why do you believe this research project does not require Project Licence- For primary cell culture, termination with a Schedule 1 method is adequate. Include that training and competency has been completed

Every possibility should be taken to share excess animals and tissues- On many occasions, non-CNS tissue are redundant which can be used by other users. Please use the 3Rs enquiry list.

The non- reg form is in the process of being reviewed. It will be sent to AWERB as soon as possible for approval and then put on the website when it is ready to be used. Numbers are being added to help trace the forms. The information being asked for hasn't changed, the aim is to make the forms clearer. It was noted that sometimes NACWO's do not get their non-reg forms back. There is a new process to ensure that non-reg forms go back out to NACWO's and researchers.

7. Biofacility Infrastructure

██████████ remodelling is happening. ██████████ clean is nearly complete and is aiming to get the animals back in on 8^h May. ██████████ has closed. ██████████ are getting on OK with the rodents.

Please continue to log everything and make calls as early as possible to ██████████. If it is urgent let ██████████ know.

██████████ has had a continuous problem with humidity in the ██████████. ██████████ will not fix it because it is a problem with the pipework.

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

There will be some manual handling training on 3rd May. It is mainly designed for goods in stores, receiving large items and unusual items.

A few people are unable to wear powered respirators so will need face fit testing for disposable respirators. ██████████ will train people to use disposable respirators.

9. Training and Competencies

Reminder that IAT live sessions will start again next week.

There was a query over the need for a confirmation of death DOPS. It was confirmed that no separate DOPS is needed.

10. Any other business

There is a group of 'Care-full stories' on the University of Oxford website that is worth looking at. These are an interactive training resource for developing a culture of care.

██████████ 5th edition of the Lab Animal Anaesthesia Handbook has just been published.

Some people in ██████████ have published a paper on 'the use of score sheets and assessment of clinical signs in fish research', to aid in finding end points of that species.

██████████ has been added to the list for the group for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting:



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

University Biomedical Services

Minutes

Friday 19th May, Group 4. In Person at [REDACTED].

