



**Date:** Friday, 24/05/24

**Time:** 1.30pm

**To:** Committee Members

**At:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** AWERB Operations Committee

**Attendees:** [REDACTED]

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**Minutes:** [REDACTED]

**Mentioned within text:** [REDACTED]

**1. Minutes**

The minutes from the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April were agreed.

**2. Matters Arising**

[REDACTED] was to signpost colony management resources. This was circulated to all the User Meetings in the NVS updates.

The malocclusion workshop is nearly ready, there are some amendments to make to the exam. There will be a trial run and the aim is for the course to start in June.

The PST Training has been completed.

**3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update**

[REDACTED] has two room changes and [REDACTED] has one room change.

[REDACTED] is a new NIO going on to the PEL, [REDACTED] will be added as NTCO and [REDACTED] will be added as NACWO.

The Home Office are reviewing their Standard Condition 18 form which should be available soon.

Antibody licences now have additional conditions so a report must be submitted to AWERB before any work can begin on any individual antibody. An update will be sent to the NACWOS.

A facilities audit will take place on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

**4. What is happening in your unit?**



**a) What is happening with animals in your unit?**

█ has been working with █ on the dehydration on █. There has been a slight increase, but it is suspected to be because of the racks being changed. The aftercare protocol is being amended to try and aid in discovering the dehydration sooner. A trial in █ using the █ valves is looking positive.

The booklice have gone from the sky flows but there are still a few in the rooms.

**b) What is happening with staff in your unit?**

█ has moved from █ to █. There is a new senior on █ and a few vacancies in the lower grades. █ is covering as Fish NACWO while █ is away. Best wishes were expressed for █ retirement. He retires next Friday.

█ has moved to █. █ is due back in July or August. █ has passed the NACWO course and has been a big help. There was a potential bank staff employee, but they went to Cancer Research instead. There is another potential bank staff that will be meeting with █ soon.

**c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?**

█ has had a researcher who has had an issue with rat eyes. █ staff have created blinkers for surgery to protect the eyes from the lights and have provided a different eye lube.

█ has implemented a heat box which is greatly helping with recovery after surgery, and she has agreed to do an update at the next surgery technician meeting to share this refinement.

Some of the PPL holders at █ have shown concern about the feedback from the Home Office about what should be reported under their Standard Condition 18's. They are still awaiting an update from the Home Office.

SRG rats have arrived from the USA in gnotobiotic boxes that are very small. Last time they were sent they had too much hydrogel which leaked into the bedding, and they were sent over a bank holiday. This resulted in two being culled. █ said they can only guarantee the health status of the animal if they are shipped in the gnotobiotic boxes. █ is approaching to ask why they can't use the boxes we usually use and a due diligence travel plan.

**5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's**

There are a few ongoing RCA's. █ will be starting to lead on some over the next few weeks.

There have been 37 SC18's since the last meeting. These include found dead, animals euthanased, and unexpected adverse effects. Three have been flagged, and one of those has gone to enforcement. Animals were put in a heated cabinet and the next day they were dead. Tecniplast said they were unable to find an issue. There will be more checks beforehand in the future.

**6. Biofacility Infrastructure**

█ have given their six-month notice. █ will be taking over. █ Autoclave has been commissioned for use.

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

█ has been engaging with the facility managers and is providing support with risk assessments. The first aid poster at █ had now been updated.

## 8. Training and Competencies

█ has been working on the "Colony Management Essentials" training which will be added to Moodle when it is completed.

There are places on the Researcher Assessor Course in June, Train the Trainer in September and the NACWO course in October.

10 people attended the IVC advanced training for seniors at █.

The Schedule 1 database email has been successful. The list will be available to NACWOS on MCMS. Everyone can check their own records.

## 9. Any other business

It is █ last day today. █ will be managing and NACWO in the interim. █ will have a phased return until his retirement. █ will be the surgery technician and █ as technician. █ are currently recruiting for the Facility Manager and Deputy manager posts. █ asked for the NACWO PEL application forms for █

█ are applying for AAALAC accreditation within █.

There was a conversation about the level of CO2 used. Guidance will be checked to ensure AAALAC will not flag this up. Rats can't rear in the cages on Level 0 so AAALAC will also flag this.

NC3RS have updated the single housing area for male mice on their website following the 3Hs meeting. Extra information has been added about husbandry.

Samples are usually taken a week after arrival in quarantine but there have been conversations around taking samples at 48 hours.

█ talk was well received at the staff event. █ to talk to █ about putting together some information about health screening, for reference material.

There was a question about and whether a non-reg is needed for sharing excess animals and tissues. It was agreed a non-reg is needed.

█ is going to █ to transfer training records on to MCMS.

**Date of next meeting: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June, Teams**