



**Date** Friday, 25/11/2022

**Time** 1.30pm

**To** Committee Members

**At** Greenwich House

**Subject** AWERB Operations Committee

**Attendees:** [REDACTED]

**Apologies:** [REDACTED]

**Minutes:** [REDACTED]

**Mentioned within text:** [REDACTED]

## 1. Minutes

[REDACTED] sent in comments via email. She thought that in the previous meeting it was agreed that it would be best practice that only [REDACTED] staff would be responsible for the training and assessing of Sch1 methods in rodents. The committee agreed this was accurate. This will be added to the previous minutes.

## 2. Matters arising

### 3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

The Home Office audit has taken place. [REDACTED] thanked everyone for their hard work. The Home Office will be back to audit the rodent facilities. [REDACTED] informed the committee that the HO asked that if there are any rooms on the PEL that aren't being used they should be removed. The Home Office attended LASA and discussed the change program but there was nothing new to report.

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

[REDACTED] thanked [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] for holding the 3Rs drop in session. Since it happened staff have realised there is support and encouragement available and it has had a really positive impact. One member of staff at [REDACTED] has gained a lot of confidence since the session. There is Guinea-Pig screening being set up and the rehoming programme is continuing. [REDACTED] has had a positive experience with the screening company [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] discussed an alternative to oral gavage. At LASA there was a discussion about voluntary oral dosing with rodents. [REDACTED] is going to approach one of the users at [REDACTED] to see if they are willing to trial the method alongside oral gavage. [REDACTED] discussed some work being done by one of the [REDACTED] researchers who has developed a glucose sensor implant for rats which allows you to monitor the glucose levels in real time, reducing the stress on the rats. The same group has also developed an armour plated cover for the wires for rats going in to an IVC with head implants, allowing the rat to move more freely within the cage. [REDACTED] had a meeting regarding the auto watering system and recent test results show that the new dosing? level on L2 in [REDACTED] are very positive. [REDACTED] is waiting for further clarification. The new flow switch is now working well. [REDACTED] said that since the transition to auto watering on L2 the difference it has made day to day has been extremely positive. [REDACTED] staff are currently developing a light-dark room for the use of staff and animals. This is still in the planning stages and [REDACTED] will keep the committee updated. [REDACTED] informed the group that the Proton microscope and IVIS were underused.

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

████ informed the committee there are 43 RCA's in total; three from SC18's, 39 PEL ones. 18 of these have not been pursued as non-compliance and there have been no more letters of reprimand. There has been a few trends developing that will be looked at more closely. The learning cards that have been circulated have been well received. The █████ have asked if they can use the cards. This has been agreed. The new RCA reporting email address has been circulated this needs to be used from now on so the correct people are receiving the information.

████ asked if there were any actions to complete as a result of the learning cards. █████ informed the committee that they should be used as a continuous learning tool but also understand that there is no 'one size fits all' and they can be adapted so they work for individual units. █████ reported there have been 34 SC18 reports submitted since the last meeting.

Commonalities and repeated events:

- █████ x four reports submitted – x three involving sheep found dead in pen, no obvious signs after feeding a diet altered in amount/composition. HOI requested to see pathology reports.
- █████ x five reports submitted – mice - ranging from clinical signs/tumour burdens – three/five cases have been acknowledged and closed by HOI, further two reports awaiting a response.
- █████ x three reports submitted – Zebrafish – reporting lower survival rate when breeding transgenic line.
- █████ x six reports submitted – mice – separate incidents non-repeats.

## 6. Non-regulated Procedures

- ████
- The amount of funding needs to be included
  - The question regarding the sharing of excess animals needs to be answered

- ████
- The information on the form submitted needs to be transferred on to version 2.6 of the form
  - More information regarding accommodation needs to be included
  - Funding information was not provided

- ████
- The information on the form submitted needs to be transferred on to version 2.6 of the form
  - More information regarding accommodation needs to be included
  - The question regarding the sharing of excess animals needs to be answered
  - The end date of the request should be one year from submission after this date repeat requests should be submitted

- ████
- Details of the use of the 3Rs enquiry list should be included
  - The question regarding the sharing of excess animals needs to be answered

- ████
- Details of the use of the 3Rs enquiry list should be included
  - The date and amount of funding needs to be added to the form
  - At what stage are the embryos taken
  - Scientific output question has not been answered

It has been requested by the NACWO's that the non-regulated procedures forms be added to MCMS. █████ will be contacted to discuss this to see if it is possible.

## 7. Biofacility Infrastructure

On 1<sup>st</sup> December █████ take over the Estates management. █████ has expressed the importance of urgent repair requests with █████. The █████ cages wash and autoclave inspection is complete, hopefully operational by █████ now has a date for someone to rebuild the boilers. The █████ L4 remodelling begins on Monday. The floor in the surgery area in █████ needs to be replaced. The floor in the rabbit room at █████ is being replaced before Christmas as this was damaged as a result of a leak.

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

There is a new H&S form to be used, which has been circulated to all managers. There is a safety committee meeting in two weeks. █████ reminded everyone to continue to do H&S walk around. There is a member of

staff currently undergoing allergy testing as they are having side effects from rodent bites. All rodent bites must now be reported on Occupational Health Accidents and Incidents form.

## 9. Training and Competencies

There is a new member of staff starting on January 30<sup>th</sup> replacing [REDACTED]. After the initial induction period they will be visiting the facilities. There is no funding available for IAT & CPD courses. [REDACTED] asked [REDACTED] what should be happening with DOP's until new staff are in post. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] is reviewing them currently and they should be sent to the UBS training email address. [REDACTED] asked if she was able to use the 'Research Animal Training' from Newcastle at [REDACTED] to complete the 6.3 Schedule 1 rather than pay for it again through the Training Centre. [REDACTED] said it is possible for them to do this and a certificate for evidence will be required. [REDACTED] is going to check the content of the module to ensure that it covers everything that is required.

[REDACTED] asked who is able to assess for surgery for 4 to 5 hour surgeries as surgery techs and NVS are not assessing the whole procedure. [REDACTED] confirmed that staff can only assess what they have knowledge of and are signed off to assess, DOPs and SOPs should be reviewed and used. [REDACTED] asked if this can be raised in the surgery group when they meet next. [REDACTED] has asked surgery tech & colony management meeting reports to be fed into AOC from this point onwards. The colony management meetings are going to restart now [REDACTED] has returned.

## 10. Any other business

[REDACTED] brought with her some images of an artificial mouse in a cage trapped behind the hopper to demonstrate what has been happening with the mice and it is believed this is happening to mice all of a similar age (around 5 weeks old). It is thought that the mice climb up the cage and get the back of their skull hooked on the horizontal bars that run along the inside of the cage. Once they are there, they are unable to get down and they die. Making a plate to clip on the bottom of the hopper was discussed to prevent climbing was discussed. [REDACTED] is going to locate designs of similar plates that were made at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will report this to Techniplast.

[REDACTED] informed the committee that the [REDACTED] have complimented the PPL amendment process and support received was a very positive experience.

[REDACTED] has asked if the body condition scoring information can be added to MCMS. She has spoken with [REDACTED] about this and this is being worked on to try and streamline to process.

**Date of next meeting:** Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022