Minutes

Date       Wednesday, 22/02/2023
Time       1pm
To         Standing Committee
At         
Subject    AWERB Standing Committee
Our Ref    Doc.UBS.AWERB.22.02.23

In attendance: 

Scientists in attendance for 1a) N/A, 1b) N/A, 1c) __________, 1d) __________ & 1e) __________

Apologies:

Minutes:

1. Project Licences
(a) Amendment: __________ were also in attendance)
The committee discussed the following:
   • The committee supported the proposed changes from the __________ AWERB committee.
   • The inclusion of reference to the researcher moving with the animals and therefore, available to supervise this work along with members of the group.
   • The addition of ‘N/A’ to answer specific questions within the amendment.
   • The removal of humane end points in Protocol 6 if they are no longer required.
   • The inclusion of __________ guidelines or the recommendation that they are made readily available to the staff within the facility where the animals are going to be.

The committee agreed changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(b) Amendment: __________ were also in attendance)
The committee discussed the following:
   • The inclusion of specific references from Protocol 13 in the Project Harms section.
   • Specific paragraphs require moving to sections where they are better suited.
   • The inclusion of reference to the researcher moving with the animals and therefore, available to supervise the work along with members of the group.
   • The addition of ‘N/A’ to answer specific questions within the amendment.
   • The removal of the rehoming statement in Protocol 2 if it no longer applies.
   • The recommendation that all known clinical signs are discussed with the new animal facility to ensure they are aware of what to expect.
   • The recommendation that the researcher reviews the CFA guidance given to explore if refinements can be applied to their application.
   • The inclusion of alternative procedures in regards to Protocol 8, step 9.
• Editing of specific wording required in regards to Protocol 13, step 1.
• The recommendation that supportive care is provided prior to any procedures in regards to Protocol 13, step 2.
• Further clarity in regards to how the combination of weight loss and clinical signs determine the humane end point in Protocol 13, step 2.
• Further consideration given to other methods that could be used for monitoring in Protocol 13, step 2.

The committee agreed changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(c) New:

The committee discussed the following:
• Amendment of maintenance steps in Protocols 1 and 2 from 'mandatory' to 'optional'.
• Consideration given to the inclusion of the names of mutations being investigated.
• Further information required in the Experimental design section of Protocol 1.

The committee agreed minor changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(d) New:

The committee discussed the following:
• Typographical errors that require amending.
• Further information around how animals are kept in terms of out at grass whenever possible, in the Refinement section.
• The inclusion of life stages against the steps where they are not applicable at all.
• Amendment of specific words in the Protocols.
• The recommendation that the researcher checks through the continued use and reuse sections to ensure they have all the authorities correct for moving animals across protocols.
• Removal of references to the Home Office Minimum Standards for Aseptic Surgery as this is covered elsewhere.
• Further specificity required in regards to the end point listed in Protocol 1, step 2.
• Further justification required in step 1, Protocols 1 and 2.
• Further justification required in regards to specific procedures planned in Protocol 1, step 5 and Protocol 3, step 5.
• The inclusion of oral routes of administration if they are required in Protocol 3, step 1.
• Further clarity around specific humane end points in Protocol 3, step 2.
• Further clarity in regards to specific references in all relevant protocols.
• Further information in regards to vehicle administration and control animals if these are required in Protocols 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 8, step 4, Protocol 7, step 3.
• The recommendation that the researcher checks through Protocols 5-8 to ensure they only contain the species relevant for each protocol.
• The recommendation that the researcher checks to ensure the potential adverse effects, monitoring, control measures and humane endpoints are appropriate for the species and are clearly separated out where necessary.
• The inclusion of specific scanning as well as specific cages if these are appropriate.
• Amendment of specific wording.

The committee agreed changed needed to be made before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.
(e) New: [Redacted] was also in attendance

The committee discussed the following:

- Further detail in regards to the enrichment animals will receive.
- The inclusion of reference to the in-house shared breeding which minimises the need to transport animals.

The committee agreed minor changes were needed before a draft was submitted to the Home Office.

2. Retrospective Reviews
   (a) None

3. Minutes of last meeting 25/01/23
   After a minor change these were approved

4. Minutes of the AWERB Sub-Standing committee 11/01/23
   The minutes were noted.

5. Minutes of the AWERB 3Rs Committee 04/01/23
   The minutes were noted.

6. Minutes of the AWERB Operations Committee 16/12/23
   The minutes were noted.

7. Matters arising from the minutes and AOB
   Overseas Research Request: [Redacted] – The committee reviewed the Overseas Research request and had the following comments:
   - Further clarity required in regards to the purpose of collecting samples of specific species.
   - Further information around the transmitters.
   The committee agreed these comments would need to be addressed before the request could receive ethical approval.

   Overseas Research Request: [Redacted] – The committee reviewed the Overseas Research Request and had no comments that needed to be addressed. The committee agreed this request would receive ethical approval.

   Non-Regulated Procedure Request: [Redacted] – The committee reviewed the Non-Regulated Procedure request and no comments that needed to be addressed. The committee agreed this request would receive ethical approval.
Letter from [REDACTED] This was noted by the committee.

8. List items of note

Date of next meeting: 22/03/2023