



## Minutes

Date Wednesday, 26/02/2020

Time 1pm

To Standing Committee

At [REDACTED]

Subject AWERB Standing Committee

Our Ref Doc.UBS.AWERB.26.02.20

**In attendance:** [REDACTED]

**Scientists in attendance for 1a) N/A and 1b) N/A**

**Apologies:** None

### 1. Letter from PETA

The AWERB committee discussed the letter [REDACTED] received from The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) regarding the use of the Forced Swim Test (FST).

The committee acknowledged that while in the past this test has been overstated as a model of depression, under the right circumstances, this test still has validity. The committee discussed the rigorous review each Project Licence Application undergoes by the AWERB committee taking into account the scientific reason the requests are made. A ban on any test would remove this conversation entirely which the committee agreed was an integral part of the AWERB's role. The committee agreed they would not support a blanket ban on the FST and the use of this test would be considered in the same way all research work was, on an individual case-by-case basis ensuring the most refined method was considered.

As we have already been recognised we will continue to provide informed outreach to the general public.

### 2. Review of forms

The committee discussed several policy forms and minor changes to these were approved.

### 2. Retrospective Assessment

(a) [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- The AWERB 3Rs committee comments where this Retrospective Assessment has already been discussed.
- Further information around references to the use of 'advanced statistics'.
- The change of wording referenced in Section 2.2.
- Further information around the review of fighting amongst older animals that took place and the refinements made.



**3. Minutes of last meeting 29/01/20**

The minutes were approved.

**4. Minutes of the AWERB sub-standing committee 07/02/20**

The minutes were noted.

**5. Minutes of the AWERB 3Rs Committee 05/02/20**

The minutes were noted.

**6. Minutes of the AWERB Operations Committee 21/02/20**

The minutes were not available.

**7. Matters arising from the minutes and AOB**

None

**8. List items of note**

**Date of next meeting:** 18/03/20