Minutes

Date       Wednesday, 26/10/2022
Time       1pm
To         Standing Committee
At         
Subject    AWERB Standing Committee
Our Ref    Doc.UBS.AWERB.26.10.22

In attendance:

Scientists in attendance for 1a) NA, 1b) N/A & 1c) NA

Apologies:

Minutes:

1. Project Licences
(a) New licence:

The committee discussed the following:

- Further clarity required in regards to the animal numbers in the pilot studies in Protocol 4, experimental design section.
- The recommendation that the researcher considers splitting Protocol 5 into two separate protocols.
- Further clarity required in regards to the frequency of step 1, Protocol 5.
- Further information required in regards to limits listed in Protocol 6, step 2.

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

(b) New Licence:

The committee discussed the following:

- Further review of the Non-Technical Summary so it is understandable to a lay person.
- Review of animal numbers in the Reduction section to ensure they are accurate.
- The inclusion of the additional support and observations that will be applied in regards to the neonates post-surgery in the Refinement section.
- The removal of identifiers in the Project Harms section.
- Review of life stages used in each step of the Protocols.
- Review of the administration of substances in the Protocols to ensure applicable limits have been set for each life stage.
- Further clarity required in the Animal Experience sections.
- The inclusion of specific procedures as well as the scientific justification as to why this needs to done at such an early age.
- Review of specific adverse effects.
- Further information in regards to Protocol 2, step 3.
The committee agreed changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(c) New Licence: [REDACTED] was also in attendance

The committee discussed the following:

- Further review of the Non-Technical Summary so it is understandable to a lay person.
- Removal of all references to protocols in the Non-Technical Summary.
- Further information around the published best practise the researcher will follow to ensure experiments are conducted in the most refined way.
- Further information around the expected severities and the proportion of animals in each category in the Project Harms section.
- Further information around the expertise and staffing that will be available to support the researcher.
- Further information around the funding granted.
- Further information around the general types and strains of animals in regards to Protocol 1.
- The correction of spelling mistakes in Protocol 1, step 1.
- The recommendation that the researcher uses the set templates in Protocol 1, step 2.

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

2. Retrospective Reviews

(a) [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- The inclusion of SC18 reports that contain Home Office inspector comments only.
- Further detail required in Section 3.7.
- The committees commended the use of a scoring system, asked if it was developed by the group and wondered if it was possible to share this so other groups could also benefit from a similar system.
- Whether the outcome of using the jackets could be shared/disseminated to assist others in a similar situation.

(b) [REDACTED]

The committee discussed the following:

- Further information around the use of specific substances in Section 2.3.
- The removal of names from Section 3.3.
- The recommendation that only publications with 3Rs achievements are highlighted bold.

3. Minutes of last meeting 28/09/22

After a minor change the minutes were approved.
4. Minutes of the AWERB sub-standing committee 10/08/22, 12/09/22 & 14/09/22
The minutes were noted.

5. Minutes of the AWERB 3Rs Committee 07/09/22
The minutes were noted.

6. Minutes of the AWERB Operations Committee 22/07/22 & 26/08/22
The minutes were noted.

7. Matters arising from the minutes and AOB
Teaching request: [Redacted] – The committee reviewed the Teaching request and had some comments the researcher needed to address:
- Further justification required in regards to specific procedures required.
- The committee advised the researcher to make contact with another researcher who has developed specific methods which could be a refinement.
- The committee advised the researcher to make contact with the NACWO to discuss sourcing animals in-house rather than buying from suppliers.

The committee agreed these comments needed to be addressed before this Non-Regulated Procedure request could be signed off.

Non-Regulated Procedure request: [Redacted] – The committee reviewed the Non-Regulated Procedure request and asked the researcher to include what steps are taken to ensure eggs do not age over the threshold for them to become protected animals. The committee agreed the Non-Regulated Procedure form needed to be updated with this information before they could sign it off.

8. List items of note

Date of next meeting: 30/11/22