Minutes

Date   Wednesday, 27/04/2022
Time   1pm
To     Standing Committee
At     Virtual, MS Teams
Subject AWERB Standing Committee
Our Ref Doc.UBS.AWERB.27.04.22

In attendance:

Scientists in attendance for 1d) [redacted] & 1e) [redacted]

Apologies:

Minutes:

1. Project Licences
(a) Amendment: [redacted]
The committee discussed the following:
   • The committee had no recommendations to make before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(b) Amendment: [redacted]
The committee discussed the following:
   • The committee had no recommendations to make before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(c) Amendment: [redacted]
The committee discussed the following:
   • The committee had no recommendations to make before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

(d) New: [redacted]
The committee discussed the following:
   • Further explanation required in regards to specific procedures in the Non-Technical Summary.
   • Further consideration given to whether the experimental protocols require the inclusion of specific steps currently not listed.
   • The removal of specific references in the Protocols that are no longer required.
   • The removal of specific procedures from Protocol 5, step 2 if there is no scientific reason as to why they are needed.
   • Further information required in the animal experience section of Protocol 5, step 2.
   • Further information required in regards to the humane endpoints in Protocol 6, step 1.
Further description and clarification in regards to the procedures that will be carried out in Protocol 7, step 1.
Further updating required in regards to the humane end points and adverse effects in Protocol 7, step 1.

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

(e) New: 

The committee discussed the following:
- Typographical and grammatical errors to be addressed.
- Further consideration needed to ensure projected number of animals are correct.
- The removal of comments referencing specific incidences in the Non-Technical Summary.
- Further explanation required for specific terminology in the Non-Technical Summary.
- Further information around which non-animal alternatives were considered for use in this project in regards to the established cell lines mentioned in objective 5.
- Further information around the animal models and methods that will be used during the project in regards to single cell manipulation and the availability of other mammalian species.
- Further consideration given to the list of references in the Scientific Background section.
- Further information around how the objectives relate to each other and help the researcher achieve their aims in the Action Plan.
- Further information around the expected outputs that could arise from Protocol 2.
- The reduction of the animals’ age limit to 15 months in Protocol 4, step 3.
- The inclusion of specific steps in Protocol 5.
- Further description of the procedures planned and the addition of a separate step in Protocol 5, step 1.
- Further information in regards to the adverse effects in Protocol 5, step 1.
- Further description of the procedures planned in Protocol 5, step 3.
- Further consideration given to responses given in regards to adverse effects in Protocol 5, step 3.

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

(f) New: 

The committee discussed the following:
- Further information around the expected impacts/adverse effects for the animals during the project in the Project Harms section on what will be done in the event of cross fostering.
- Further information around the steps taken during the experimental design phase to reduce the number of animals used in the project in the Reduction section.
- Further information and clarification in regards to continued use across protocols.
- Further information around what the animals will have done to them if they move to other Project Licences.
- Further consideration given to the amount of time allowed for recovery post anaesthesia.
- The removal of references to specific procedures planned if not required.
- Consideration given to whether step 2 in Protocol 5 should be mandatory.
- Further information in the adverse effects section in regards to specific procedures planned in Protocol 5, step 5.
• The removal of specific references if they are not required in Protocol 5, step 9.
• The inclusion of specific adverse effects for the animals in Protocol 5, step 11.
• Further description of procedures planned and the purpose of step 12 in Protocol 5.
• Further information around the life stages of the animals used in Protocol 7.

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

2. Retrospective Reviews
(a) None

3. Minutes of last meeting 30/03/22
The minutes were approved.

4. Minutes of the AWERB sub-standing committee 09/03/22
The minutes were noted.

5. Minutes of the AWERB 3Rs Committee 02/03/22
The minutes were noted.

6. Matters arising from the minutes and AOB
[Redacted]: The AWERB committee thanked the researcher for preparing and providing the report and appreciated the details around the acclimatising of the birds and the schedule of rehoming.

[Redacted]: The committee reviewed the report given and confirmed that no further work could be carried out until the licence amendment submitted is approved by the Home Office. The committee requested that the group submit to the committee the response from the Home Office that was received for the Standard Condition 18 report.

7. List items of note

Date of next meeting: 25/05/22