Minutes

Date  Friday, 07/02/2020
Time  10:00 AM
To   Sub-Standing Committee
At   Meeting Room, UBS
Subject AWERB Standing Committee
Our Ref Doc. UBS.AWERB.07.02.20

Present:

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

Apologies:

MINUTES

1. Project Licences
   a) Amendment:

   The committee discussed the following:
   - That a link to a paper recommended by the NIO would be sent to the applicant.
   The committee agreed no changes were needed before a draft was submitted to the Home Office.

   b) Amendment:

   The committee discussed the following:
   - Additional text added to reassure the Home Office that licenced people will always be on hand should problems occur.
   - Further review of animal numbers to ensure they are for a six-month period only. Update of protocols and the Non-Technical Summary to reflect this.
   The committee agreed minor changes were needed before a draft was submitted to the Home Office.

   c) Amendment:

   The committee discussed the following:
   - Further review of animal numbers to ensure they are for a six-month period only.
   - Further clarity required to distinguish which steps are ‘optional’ and which are ‘obligatory’ in Protocol 1.
   - Information around the typical experience of an animal on Protocol 1.
   - Further review of adverse effects required to give further clarity to what is actually expected.
   - Further information around the single housing of animals and acclimatisation.
   - The removal of references to additional species in the Non-Technical Summary.
   - Expansion of abbreviations used in the Non-Technical Summary.
   The committee agreed changes should be made before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.
d) Amendment:

The committee discussed the following:

- Further clarity required to show that very few adverse effects are expected.
- The addition of references to antibiotics and pain relief during the surgical process.
- Further information around the use of single housing in pens that enable animals to see each other.
- Further review of animal numbers and licence length in the Protocol sections and Non-Technical Summary to ensure they are for a six-month period only.

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

e) Amendment:

The committee discussed the following:

- Several typographical errors that require amending.
- Further information around the adverse effects and end points for ageing animals in Protocols 3 and 4.
- The suggestion that references to weight loss should be changed so they are in line with the moderate severity band in Protocols 2 to 5.
- Further re-wording required in regards to weight loss and the frequency at which they are weighed.
- The recommendation that additional nutritional supplements are given to the animals before they are administered with specific substances to ensure acclimatisation before any adverse effects are expected.
- Further explanation required to provide clarity on expected adverse effects and end points for each of the Protocols in regards to after care.
- Further explanation required in regards to the different causes of lethargy.
- The suggestion that a timeframe for reconstitution is included and that where possible split doses will be used in regards to specific procedures.
- Further information that provides clarity around the adverse effects expected and end points in regards to specific procedures.
- The removal of specific references from the Refinement section of the Non-Technical Summary.
- Rewording required in the Project Summary.

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

2. Minutes of the last meeting 10/01/20

The minutes were approved.

3. Minutes of AWERB Standing Committee meeting 29/01/20

The minutes were unavailable

4. Retrospective Reviews [RR]
a) None

5. Any other business
An item was raised relating to the RSPCA lay members forum discussed in the meeting held on 06/12/19. [Name redacted] informed the committee that she had read previous RSPCA lay members forum agendas and the notes taken and felt that the meeting itself was well balanced. [Name redacted] also commented that he had no issues with these meetings.

[Name redacted] confirmed that the uploading of the FOI reports table onto the UBS website is still to be actioned.

6. Date of next meeting: 06/03/20