Minutes

Date  Wednesday, 10/05/2023
Time  10:00 AM
To  Sub-Standing Committee
At
Subject  AWERB Standing Committee
Our Ref  Doc.UBS.AWERB.10.05.23

Present:

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

Apologies:

Minutes:

1. Project Licences
a) Amendment:

The committee discussed the following:

- Further explanation required for specific references in the Project Harms section.
- Further information required in regards to acclimatisation in the Refinement section.
- Further information in regards to the maximum number of times specific procedures can be performed in the Animal Experience section of Protocols 4 and 5.
- Further updating of the flow chart included in the Animal Experience section of Protocol 5.
- Data around the variability the researcher mentioned during the meeting.

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

b) Amendment:

The committee discussed the following:

- Further information included in the Project Harms section and the relevant protocols in regards to specific procedures planned.
- Further review of steps in Protocol 2 if specific procedures are not always required.
- The inclusion of specific references in step 5 of Protocol 2.
- Clarification and the inclusion of further detail in regards to the humane end points in step 5 of Protocol 2.
- Step 6 of Protocol 2 needs to be split out.
- PST comments that need to be actioned within the application.
The committee agreed changes were needed before a draft is submitted to the Home Office.

2. Minutes of the last meeting 12/04/23
The minutes were approved.

3. Retrospective Reviews [RR]
The committee discussed the following:
- The committee commended the thoroughness of which the Retrospective Review was completed.
- The recommendation that the researcher checks and amends if necessary the percentages listed in Sections 2.3 and 2.4.
- Further clarity required in Section 2.3 in regards to the way animals are recorded.
- Further detail required in Section 3.2.
- Further information in regards to the volume of Standard Condition 18 reports submitted.

The committee discussed the following:
- The committee commended the thoroughness of which the Retrospective Review was completed.
- Amendment of wording used in Section 3.6.
- Review of response given in Section 3.10 to ensure it is correct.

4. Retrospective Assessments [RA]
The committee discussed the following:
- Totals in specific tables require amending in regards to Section 2.1 and Section 2.4.
- Further detail in regards to unexpected adverse effects listed in Section 2.2 as well as the relevant Standard Condition 18 report information in Section 2.3.
- Further clarification required in Section 2.4.
- Further information in regards to the techniques used in Section 3.4.
- The inclusion of references to all animals receiving a full health check and implant survey from the Named Veterinary Surgeons as well as information around the frequency of these checks in Section 3.8.

5. Any other business
Non-Regulated Procedure Request: The committee agreed they could not accurately review this request as they were not the relevant ethical review body.

Overseas Research Request: The committee reviewed this Overseas research request and had no comments to make. They agreed this request would receive ethical approval and also asked if the researcher could feedback their findings.
Oversea Research Request: [Redacted] – The committee reviewed this Overseas research request and had several comments that needed to be addressed:

- Further explanation required for the use of specific animals
- Further rationale and information in the ‘What will be done to the animals’ section.
- Further explanation in regards to how long the animals were held for and if they will be provided food.
- Further detail in regards to where the animals are coming from and the process of how they will be caught.
- Further information in regards to where the animals will be held between each experiment.
- Further information around why the animals need to be kept for the duration listed.

The committee agreed these comments would need addressing and the form updating before they could give the request ethical approval.

6. Date of next meeting: 12/04/23