

Date: Friday, 19/07/24

Time: 1.30 pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]

1. Minutes

After a small change, the minutes from the meeting on 24th June were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

There has been no news from the Home Office regarding the audit.

4. What is happening in your unit?

There are six rats left from the [REDACTED] group. They are very large so have been separated as they did not have enough room to move in the IVC. There is a concern they will not be used for a study and therefore wasted.

There are two 16-year-old Jays and six 22-year-old Rooks. Two birds that were rehomed have just had their first clutch. The grant has been put in for the Magpie work so there are 20 Magpies expected by the end of December.

At [REDACTED], PPL holders tend to overestimate numbers on their protocols and use a fraction of the animals causing animal waste. There are now eight boxes of rats, it was four, but they have been split up to give them more space. There are five mice, but this is likely to rise to 150 from next week. Two rats are being rehomed as they had a fight that caused injuries.

A new user has applied for funding for marmoset work. Breeding marmosets is going well and may need to stop in the future.

The refurbishment of the ventilation started two weeks ago. The works will only cause a minor impact until the final stage when the system is being rebalanced.

The [REDACTED] has a 40-page Health and Safety report with 24 pages of actions that they are working through.

The training records need to be organised and DOPS are being made more consistent. The team is functioning well.

There are around 12 ponies and some sheep. [REDACTED] long-term experiment is coming to an end. There are plenty of lambs and these will be allowed to grow until next year.

Horse experiments will be starting soon but there has been an issue with importing the vaccine. There have been some questions about rehoming the horses used in this study, but a case is being made.

[REDACTED] have new tadpoles. The [REDACTED] big room has been closed and the small room is populated. There was a conversation about the lampreys being cancelled. There was a problem with having them imported but we should now have them by 14th August.

All health screens have come back ok.

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

[REDACTED] has resigned and [REDACTED] is on maternity leave. [REDACTED] is filling in as NACWO. There is paternity leave and annual leave at the moment so there is not a full complement of staff in [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] staff have been working out well in [REDACTED].

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

[REDACTED] is having trouble with researchers not coming in to look after their fish or birds.

In [REDACTED] none of the backup generators have been serviced since last year.

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

Nine learning cards have been drafted but have not yet been approved. Some should be circulated for the next meeting.

There were 21 SC18s (36 animals in total) 20 were found dead, nine human error, and keep alive requests. There was a conversation around sending SC18s to the NACWOS, so they are made aware.

6. Biofacility Infrastructure

[REDACTED] is now self-sufficient in washing and autoclaving.

The cage wash at [REDACTED] is getting towards the end of its life.

[REDACTED] has no cage wash which will be a problem in the future if they need to take animals to help other facilities.

7. Health and Safety (RA's, COSHH)

There is now another round of safety inspections taking place.

8. Training and Competencies

Please make sure inductions include information about module 6.3 and emphasise that this module should be completed before practical training starts. There were concerns that this should not apply to certain species and will be raised with [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is producing a flow chart for new experienced users.

Please make sure DOPS forms are signed at the end of the assessment.

The [REDACTED] will be attending the Users meetings in September so please let them know if there is anything you want them to bring up.

The Trainers' Day is on 26th September in [REDACTED].

The training reviews that are sent from [REDACTED] monthly have the Schedule 1 records highlighted to make it easier to identify who needs reassessment or any records removing. If they are past the review date, they will not be on the euthanasia record and should not be carrying out any Schedule 1 procedures. Also, if the record is not endorsed, they will not be on the euthanasia record so assessors should remind the person being assessed to endorse it on [REDACTED] after they have been assessed. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have been fantastic at getting all their reassessments done.

Train the Trainer is on 6th August, and Nominated Assessor is on 15th August, both are in person.

The Researcher Assessor course is running in September and October. The dates for these can be found on the website.

There was a discrepancy mentioned in a previous meeting where the terminology of the DOPS and [REDACTED] do not match. This is going to be changed so they match. There was a question about whether Trainer should be used instead of Competent to Train and whether Competent to Assess is needed at all because if someone is an assessor they will be given that role on [REDACTED] anyway.

There will be a page on [REDACTED] with the list of the assessors.

On [REDACTED], there is now the ability to add fostering for mice. That will be in the next update on 2nd September.

A tick box is being added on the animal page to say a SC18 report has been submitted. This will appear on the Home Office returns report.

9. Any other business

[REDACTED] would like to visit the units to take photos of animals for a poster she is making about unusual species and their interaction with enrichment.

This would have been [REDACTED] last meeting. She will come in over the summer to visit.

Date of next meeting: 23rd August 2024