



Date: 24/01/25

Time: 1.30pm

To: Committee Members

At: [REDACTED]

Subject: AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Apologies: [REDACTED]

Minutes: [REDACTED]

Mentioned within text: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

1. Minutes

2. Matters Arising

There was an update on the safety concerns for the [REDACTED] diet delivery. A protocol has been drafted to help staff know what to do should something fail, for example the pallet that had shifted on the lorry.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report/Update

The Home Office amended the guidance in December. Please update paper copies if you have them. Chapter 9 has been removed, and the Guidance for Training and Continuous Development under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 should be used instead.

4. What is happening in your unit?

[REDACTED] redecoration works are due to finish in February. The ventilation works are progressing slowly because issues are continuing to be found. There have been quotes to move the temperature sensors as they are currently above solid ceilings. Heater batteries need replacing and a lot of plant room work has taken place.

In [REDACTED], [REDACTED] has a new working computer due to the problems caused by a hacking incident at the clinical school. [REDACTED] will be looking at making a poster about the birds.

[REDACTED] in [REDACTED] want to extend and provide single storey accommodation. The acoustic report has been done, and it looks like the work is going ahead. The bulk of the work will be on the boundary line. The work is due to start in September. There have been incidents of deliveries to the pub blocking access to the facility and pub staff using the facility car park. There is a concern this will get worse when the work is being carried out.

a) What is happening with animals in your unit?

█████ now have rodents and there are two current studies with another due to start soon.

█████ have finished the first equine herpes virus study in █████. There are another two groups starting, one inside █████ and another outside. The ponies from the outside group should be able to be rehomed. There has been more training with the ponies, the researcher was initially resistant for this to happen before they go into the barn, but they have now changed their mind. Catheters are being used when taking blood samples from the neck.

Lamb surgery is restarting and there is a full schedule of upcoming work for this year.

At █████ a researcher hasn't got any more money and has gotten to the end of the study so has stopped breeding fish. They have 7 less tanks now.

There are no rodents at █████ now.

b) What is happening with staff in your unit?

There will be a presentation on ponies at the next termly event.

A member of the █████ team is about to finish IAT Level 3 and another is starting IAT Level 2.

█████ will be leaving █████ on 5th February. There are two staff members on the IAT Level 2 course.

c) What is happening with researchers in your unit?

There is a researcher currently doing some work at █████ who would like to do similar work at █████ with chickens and quails.

█████ has new students in at █████. The start date of her bird work has not yet been confirmed but it will not be this year. It has gone through the grant application process and there would be 24 birds that will be hand reared.

5. Overview of RCA's and SC18's

Handouts of Standard Condition 18 graphs were passed around the table. There were 16 SC18's in December, involving 18 animals. The figures were discussed, and it was agreed that the categories need amending, and it would be interesting to see the percentage of which facilities the SC18's come from.

6. Biofacility Infrastructure

Issues are being resolved a bit quicker now █████ have left.

There is now a hydro pack machine which will be plumbed in at █████ over the next couple of months.

The environmental room at █████ is almost ready.

In █████ there was an alarm at 2am. The Deputy Manager had to attend because the person on call didn't answer.

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

█ has now visited █.

From 31st March, waste will need to be separated into four different bins.

8. Training and Competencies

The NACWO refresher course is now mandatory for NACWOs that did their training over five years ago. The length of the course needs to be confirmed with █. NTCOs require this and there is no charge.

The Assessor Refresher course will go live in February. This is for assessors that have been assessing for a long time. It is a short online only course and free to █.

There will be a Colony Management Essentials Training Course aimed at techs and researchers who work with breeding colonies of mice and the aim is to help evidence the requirements of being a colony manager. This is a free online short course and will be ready to go live soon.

There is a training and assessment webinar, the first one will be 27th February. It is aimed at research staff, but anyone can attend. It will cover training and assessment, DOPS, who can train and who can assess. There will be a short presentation and then a Q&A. They will run monthly.

Soon there will be Trainer's meetings starting for those that are training in the facilities. Trainers can get together for updates, information sharing and support. Please encourage Trainers to attend.

The first person started the Technician Training Plan in January.

There are now three bank staff, and another will start in February. Bank staff meetings will run monthly on █ and there will be face to face meetings twice a year.

█ will be in █ twice a week to help with training and assessment.

The next Service and Support Staff course is on 30th January.

Researcher Assessor course will be on 6th February.

The next Train the Trainer course is on 13th February.

Nominated Assessor course will be on 11th March.

There was a conversation about what a reasonable deadline would be for SOPs to be reviewed. It was agreed that two weeks is reasonable and if people can't do it in that time ask them when they can get it finished by.

A position for a Biological Services Operations and Standards Coordinator is going to be advertised.

9. Any other business



█ has over 400 registered participants, 46 posters and there will be 14 workshops. █ will be doing her pony talk. █ and █ will be doing a workshop and █ and █ will be doing a workshop. We are sending 10 techs and the people from the directorate. There will be 47 exhibiting companies, and it is taking place in █.

█ has visited █ to see how █ works there with a view to using █ where possible in █.

█ are working with █ to add different species to █.

Date of next meeting: Friday 21st February, █, Group 2