



Date Friday, 25/03/2022

Time 1.30pm

To Committee Members

At Held virtually using MS Teams

Subject AWERB Operations Committee

Attendees:

Apologies:

Minutes:

Mentioned within text:

1. Minutes

The minutes from the meeting held on the 25th February 2022 were approved.

2. Matters arising

None.

3. Establishment Licence Holder Report

Following discussions with the Directors and feedback regarding the meeting, it has been agreed that the way AOC is held will need to change to improve interaction. The initial proposal is that the meeting will be held online once every 3 months. In addition to the quarterly meeting, formal subgroups to include Named Persons and Directors would be created which would meet in person. These meetings will still have agendas and will be minuted. Any feedback should be sent to [REDACTED] regarding what would be useful and what should be on the agenda.

One of the biggest worries concerning the ASRU update is still the audits. It is unclear what the Home Office require but the process is likely to be a large administrative task. A rating system will be implemented which will include levels such as "needs improvement". It was reported that the Home Office have not been good at replying to emails and the Home Office Inspectors all have a varied approach to dealing with Standard Condition 18 reports. [REDACTED] confirmed he is happy to support any decisions made by the Named Persons. An occasion was reported when the Home Office requested lengthy amounts of information for a Standard Condition 18 report which left the researcher feeling guilty and discouraged to put in any reports unless absolutely essential. The situation at the Home Office is currently poor and if their resources are low enough, they may stop granting new Project Licences. The researchers were encouraged to provide feedback to the Home Office also. The Establishment Licence Holders group is writing a letter to [REDACTED] to outline all concerns.

The [REDACTED] has heard how happy the academics are with the new UBS processes put in place by [REDACTED] and her team. All named people were thanked for the part they play.

4. Licensing update; SC18; legislation; welfare issues; Home Office inspections

36 Standard Condition 18 reports have been received since the last meeting. They have all been submitted and acknowledged by ASRU. All cases have been closed except 1 as the Home Office have requested more information.

There have been 8 root cause analyses carried out since October, some of which are ongoing. Cases cover automatic watering, other watering issues and imports. The Home Office have been asking for refreshment of training, updates to processes and SOPs. Thanks were given to those who have turned SOPs around quickly.

5. Non-regulated procedures

██████████
This is a repeat request. The original was submitted a year ago. Further information is required. Surplus males are being culled but ██████████ will be made aware of the 3Rs register so he can make use of it.

6. Discussion of animal production, care and use; animal accommodation; animal health issues; animal models; animal transport; health screening

None.

7. Good practice; training and competencies

There have been previous questions regarding whether the PIL practical handling assessment requires the demonstrator and assessor to be two separate people. It has been confirmed that ideally it should be two people on two separate occasions, the first being the demonstration and practice and the second being the assessment. Where it is not possible to have two people, two occasions should be the absolute minimum. The DOPS form will be altered to reflect this.

The RAT (Research Animal Training) resources used for the PIL Course are predominantly rodents, but they are starting to look at other species, starting with Module 6.

The Module 6.3 course is up and running on Moodle.

8. Staffing; management and operation processes

None.

9. 3Rs; rehoming; outreach and openness

The venue for the UBS event at the Cambridge Festival has changed to the Admissions Office on the New Museum Site. The festival will run on Saturday 2nd April 10:00 – 16:00 and Sunday 3rd April from 12:00 – 16:00. ██████████ have been involved in a podcast which will be on-line during the festival. ██████████ will be informed that this has been done as it a positive step towards openness.

Everyone was thanked for responding to a recent survey regarding information dissemination. The results confirmed information should be sent as a monthly newsletter by email and the first will be circulated in May.

A poster workshop is being developed to encourage technicians to create and present them at conferences. ██████████ will be working alongside ██████████ and ██████████. Details are yet to be finalised but names of technicians who might be interested should be sent to ██████████.

10. Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting: Friday 22nd April 2022