

THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY

**Minutes of meeting held on 9 September 2024**

Ten members attended the meeting, with four joining in attendance. Apologies were received from five individuals.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

24/01 The minutes of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body held on 23 July 2024 (AWERB/24/01) were approved.

**Matters arising**

24/02 Minute 23/162 – Following the discussion at the 30 January 2024 meeting (minute 23/102), a member explained that work was currently being undertaken to update and align the University's Ethics Policies and relevant committees. As part of this programme of work, the revised form – focusing only on animal aspects of non-regulated work – would be reviewed and updated to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

24/03 Minute 34/179 – The NVS had revised the mid-term review application template in accordance with the discussions at the previous meetings. The updated protocol template had been shared with colleagues and would be used going forwards, subject to any further comments.

24/04 Minute 34/184 – The training issue identified at the previous meeting had been addressed, with the individual now having undertaken the necessary training to undertake animal work accordingly. The Committee would continue to monitor the regularity of training to ensure that courses were occurring with sufficient frequency.

**Establishment Licence (PEL) holder update**

24/05 Members received the PEL Holder's update (AWERB/04/02) and were encouraged by the take up (25 out of 30 PPL holders) of those participating in the recent Laboratory Animal Welfare and Severity Assessment training. A further session would be made available in the coming months, at which time the remaining PPL holders would be expected to participate in the mandatory training, in accordance with the contractual obligations set out by ASPA.

**Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) update**

24/06 In introducing the report (AWERB/24/03), the NVS reported:

- a) There were no major health or welfare concerns since the previous reporting period;
- b) Two new Standard Condition (SC) 18 notices had been reported to the Home Office:
  - i. One case being a likely aneurism rupture to a rodent;
  - ii. Whilst the other report was due to a possible non-compliance of procedure. The NVS explained that internal processes had since been reviewed and adjusted to ensure no further instances of this nature;
- c) Three of the SC 18 notices (previously reported to the Committee) had been closed by the Home Office.

### **Animal Facility Manager's update**

24/07

Members noted the information contained within the Animal Facilities Manager's Report (AWERB/24/04):

- a) All research activity at the SBS facility ceased on 31 August. A number of operational and contract provisions were yet to be finalised with the Bradford University Animal Unit, these were expected to be concluded imminently at which time the breeding stocks and equipment would be transferred;
- b) Bradford University had completed all its AWERB meetings relating to the secondary availability of Leeds PPL Holders and the project licenses were currently being reviewed, prior to submission to the Home Office;
- c) The staffing restructure was now complete and colleagues were beginning to move into their new roles.

### **Named Animal Care and Welfare Officers' (NACWO) Report**

24/08

In presenting their report (AWERB/24/05), the NACWOs reported that:

- a) Following the agreement of the Committee at the previous meeting, plans were underway to cease the use of tail handling by September 2025. Colleagues agreed that a formal communication (and supporting documentation) should be shared with users at the earliest opportunity;
- b) Since the report had been circulated, a welfare incident had occurred in which a bird had trapped its claw on a soft perch. Colleagues noted that the animal was unharmed and the object had since been removed from the aviary. Alternative enrichments would be considered for bird enclosures.

### **Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (3Rs) Report**

24/09

Colleagues welcomed the inclusion of the Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (3Rs) item which would be included on all AWERB agendas from this point forward.

### **Animal Facility User Group Report**

24/10

Members noted that the Animal Facility User Group had not held a meeting since the previous AWERB, as such there were no current issues to report.

24/11

The representative of the Animal Facility User Group recorded their appreciation to the NACWOs for the day-to-day care and welfare of animals during the period in which research activity was undertaken at the SBS facility.

### **External meetings**

24/12

Members were asked to share information about external meetings/training attended, or in planning. In discussion, it was noted that some colleagues would attend:

- a) 10 September: IAT Practical Skills Workshop (suturing, genetic breeding, anesthesia, aseptic techniques, etc)
- b) 11 September: Rodent Health Monitoring Seminar (screening)
- c) 16 October: AWERB Hub workshop which was open to all AWERB members. Further information was contained in paper AWERB/24/03 and had also been circulated via email
- d) 19/20 November: LASA Annual Conference

### **Annual Membership Review**

24/13

Members reviewed the AWERB's membership for the 2024/25 session (AWERB/24/06). The Animal Facilities Manager would seek expressions of interest for the 3 existing vacancies and will update the Chair and PEL Holder outside of the

meeting.

**Any Other Business**

24/14 On behalf of the University Executive, the PEL Holder thanked colleagues for their hard work and professionalism in enabling the successful completion of the merger of the University's two animal units and their commitment to facilitating the smooth transition of animals and work to the Bradford University Animal Unit.

**Date of next meeting**

24/15 The next meeting of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body will be held at 10.00-12.00 on 7 November 2024 in the Boardroom (level 13, Marjorie and Arnold Ziff Building), with lunch being served at the conclusion of the meeting.