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CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

ANIMAL WELFARE AND ETHICAL REVIEW BODY (AWERB)

18th September 2025 via Teams

MINUTES

25/07-01	<u>Apologies</u>
25/07-02	<u>Minutes</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 7 th August 2025 were considered by the Committee and were approved.
25/07-03	<u>Matters Arising</u> 25/06-07-01 “ <i>Understanding the role of Nicotinamide Adenine Dinucleotide (NAD) synthesis in immune cells</i> ”. This is still undergoing review by the applicant following comments provided by the committee, and will be circulated via AWERB fast-track prior to submission to the Home Office. 25/06-07-02 “ <i>Understanding the interactions between host and microbes leading to colonisation, drug resistance and systemic infection</i> ” (PPL amendment)”. This has been reviewed via AWERB fast-track and submitted to the Home Office
25/07-04	<u>Chairperson’s Items</u> A working group has been established to review the forms used for AWERB review of the use of animals outside of the PEL (where the work is undertaken either directly by members of UoB or in collaboration). The remit is to ensure they are fit for purpose, and the type of work and scenarios they ought to capture. A report will then be written with recommendations for consideration by AWERB. The report will then be taken to the Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity committee for approval prior to dissemination to relevant college boards and subsequent cascade across the University to raise awareness of requirements. Examples of work include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work undertaken at other Establishments under ASPA• Work undertaken overseas where it otherwise would have been under ASPA• Work undertaken outside of ASPA (such as observational work, studies involving procedures not regulated under ASPA, or use of tissues obtained post-mortem).• Where an UoB academic is an author on a paper but were not involved with the animal work.
25/07-05	<u>Verbal Reports from the Director of BMSU, NVS and NACWOs</u> <u>Director of BMSU:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Edgbaston Campus recently underwent a planned and unavoidable full steam shutdown spanning four days. Loss of steam is particularly challenging for BMSU, as steam is required for the building systems to maintain temperature and humidity within the strict parameters outlined in the Codes of Practice. Heaters, humidifiers and dehumidifiers were installed during this period. Through a combined effort from the BMSU, Estates, and Security teams, BMSU remained within Codes of Practice during this time so that there was no impact on animal welfare.• Over the summer period, appropriate staffing levels were retained during periods of leave avoiding any impact on animal welfare. <u>NVS:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It has been relatively quiet over the summer, but there are some new project licences due to commence with the introduction of some new models.• No issues with animal welfare. <u>NACWOs:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No issues to report.
25/07-06	<u>Report from the Fast-Track Procedure</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All fast-track applications are uploaded to Teams for comments by AWERB.

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25/07-07	<p><u>3Rs Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new representative from NC3Rs will be joining AWERB from October 2025.
25/07-08	<p><u>Condition 18 Reports</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There has been one Standard Condition 18 report since the last meeting. Three animals underwent a surgical procedure performed by a PILh, in the presence of the NVS. One animal was unexpectedly found dead the next day. Whilst the cause was unknown, this animal was smaller than the others used in the study and so the licence holder has now mandated that the procedure should not be undertaken on mice of less than 20g. The report was submitted to the Home Office within 72 hours.• It was queried whether post-mortem examination is undertaken in these situations. It was stated that whenever there is a situation where something unexpected has happened and an animal has had to be killed or it has been found dead, an autopsy is performed, ideally by a NACWO and in discussion with the NVS.
25/07-09	<p><u>Retrospective Review</u></p> <p>There has been one licence that has expired which legally requires a retrospective assessment as it contained a severe protocol. This has been reviewed by the AWERB and subsequently submitted to the Home Office for comment.</p> <p>There is one retrospective review for the UoB internal process (i.e. where a Project Licence does not have any severe protocols). This report has been uploaded to the AWERB Teams site for review.</p>
25/07-10	<p><u>Any Other Business.</u></p> <p>The website is being updated. Documents have been uploaded to the AWERB Teams channel for review.</p> <p>It has been a number of years since the University policy regarding the use of animals in research has been reviewed. It has therefore been updated and approved by the AWERB. This policy will now be formally signed off by the University's Legal Service Team, the BMSU Steering Group, and then the Research Governance, Ethics and Integrity Committee.</p>
25/07-11	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>30th October 2025 via Teams 18th December 2025 Stanley Barnes Meeting Room</p> <p>All will be from 10am until 1pm.</p>

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GLOSSARY

3Rs	Replacement, Reduction and Refinement
ARRIVE	Animal Research: Reporting of In Vivo Experiments
ASPA	Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986
ASRU	Animals in Science Regulation Unit
AWERB	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body
BMSU	Biomedical Services Unit
NC3Rs	National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research
NCTO	Named Competency and Training Officer
NACWO	Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer
NIO	Named Information Officer
NTS	Non-Technical Summary
NVS	Named Veterinary Surgeon
PEL	Establishment Licence
PI	Principal Investigator
PIL	Personal licence (Procedure Individual Licence)
PPLs	Project licence (Procedure Project Licence)
UoB	University of Birmingham