



University Court

Minutes of Welfare and Ethical Use of Animals Committee

A meeting of the Committee was held on 23rd January 2025.

Present: The Convener, the Director of Biological Services (DBS, NTCO), a Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer (NACWO), the Named Information Officer (NIO), one scientist Personal Licence (PIL) holder, two Project Licence (PPL) holders (also PIL holders), a scientist, the student member, an independent member, five lay members and a member of court. The University Veterinary Surgeon provided input into all business on the agenda in advance.

Apologies: Five members had sent apologies.

1 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The last meeting was held on 31st October 2024 and the minutes were approved.

2 MATTERS ARISING

- a. The committee reviewed Retrospective Reviews from two project licence holders (PPLh) whose licences are due to expire in 2025. Each PPLh attended the meeting to summarise their activity over the past 4 years and to answer questions from the committee. They also summarised their plans for PPL renewal.
- b. The outcome of point 2b from the committee meeting held on 31st October 2024 was shared with the committee.
- c. A project licence amendment was discussed, and the agreed course of action will be shared with the PPLh to amend the text within the application prior to submission to the Home Office.

3 REPORTS FROM THE NVS AND NACWO ON ANIMAL WELFARE

[Standing agenda item]

The NACWO reported as follows since the last meeting:

- There have been environmental and infrastructure related issues in each facility. These are being resolved and have not resulted in adverse welfare.
- There have been three clinical issues reported:
 - Suspected development of a phenotype in a new line. One more litter will be authorised to confirm if the clinical signs are related to genotype.
 - New clinical signs in a GA line with a moderate phenotype. Revised humane endpoints are being discussed with the research group.
 - Usual issues seen in mice and rats such as overgrown teeth and mastitis
- Four incidents were added to the near miss register. All were human error and have been resolved with improved systems in place.

4 REPORT FROM THE UVS ON COMPLIANCE

[Standing agenda item]

The UVS reported that two SC18 reports previously reported in the last meeting have been closed with no further action required and one is awaiting a response from the Home Office:

- Unexpected toxicity of a compound resulting in the immediate humane culling of a mouse who had developed adverse clinical signs upon administration that were considered to have exceeded the severity limit in the project licence.

5 REPORT FROM THE TRAINING COORDINATOR

[standing agenda item]

Training is proceeding as normal. Since the last meeting there have been:

- 28 DOPS assessments, 20 Online Modules, 2 PIL AB, 1 certification, one surgical session held in-house.
- We held 3 refresher sessions of personal licence holder (PIL) and PPL holders over the course of 2024 with 100% attendance of PILs and 98% PPL holders. The two project licence holders who were unable to attend any of the sessions have been asked to complete training in UK Legislation and UK Ethics by 31st January 2025. Should they not comply, the committee concluded that study plans, and project licence amendments will not be considered until the training is completed (Post meeting: all PPLh have complied with CPD requirements).

6 REPORT FROM THE NIO ON 3Rs

[standing agenda item]

- A summary of relevant talks at the recent Laboratory Animal in Science Association (LASA) annual congress were shared.
- A comprehensive list of plans and outputs from 3Rs Champion Group working on Reduction and Refinement was shared with the committee. This is a multi-skilled group being led by animal technicians. The empowerment and benefits of this structure will be presented at upcoming conferences.
- Ongoing collaboration with scientists to generate data on non-animal methods and alternative being used and developed in Dundee.
- Completed and successfully tested a template to ensure ARRIVE guidelines are followed for publication of data involving animals.
- A novel system has been implemented in Dundee to improve the mouse genotyping and colony management process. This will be presented at upcoming conferences.
- 3R's online event is scheduled for researchers, technicians and AWERB members in collaboration with the Universities of Aberdeen and St Andrews with a theme of 3R's and governance.

7 REPORT FROM THE DBS ON LICENSING MATTERS

[standing agenda item]

A comprehensive review of progress of each application submitted to the committee and to the Home Office since the last meeting was discussed. Since the last meeting the University has one new project licence holder.

8 AOCB

- a) The DBS informed the committee that the DBS and NVS were in discussion with external organisations and Universities discussion the implementation of a 3R's strategy. The NC3R's guidance on the implementation of an institutional 3R's strategy was shared with the committee for information and discussion at the next meeting.
- b) Nc3R's funded public engagement event on the use of animals in research is to be held in January 2025. Post meeting: A thoroughly engaging and successful event.
- c) The Chair noted that questions related to the use of animals raised in University Court meeting minutes were not being relayed back to the committee. The representative of Court will ensure this is followed up.
- d) UVS outreach activities. Invited speaker to the inaugural conference for the American association for lab animal enrichment, February 2025. Invited to present a webinar for the European Federation of Laboratory Animals Technicians (EFAT) and the European Society for Laboratory Animal Veterinarians (ESLAV) on technician empowerment. Running a workshop on communications between Vets and Techs, presenting a talk on the mouse genotyping and colony management process, and presenting a poster on the empowerment of technicians through the 3R's Champions group at the IAT Congress, March 2025.

9 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

24th April 2025.

3rd July 2025.

2nd October 2025.

10 ACTION LOG

	Actions	Responsibility	Update
04/07/2024 Item 6 And 23/01/25 Item 6	Replacements. To compile a list of non-animal methods and replacements in the University with the aim to share case studies on the web page	NIO/DBS/ Scientists	Ongoing
31/10/24 Item 3a	To arrange tours of the Facility for committee members who have not yet done so To prepare a lay person's diagram and explanation for colony management so committee members can understand the numbers used in applications	DBS NIO	Dates shared; awaiting uptake Done; approved at committee 23/01/25
23/01/25 Item 8	Implementation of a 3R's strategy	DBS/NVS	Committee to read the document for the next meeting

