

Meeting:	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)		
Date:	28 th Jan 2026	Time:	09:30-12:30
Location:	08BB04 and Teams		
Members present:	AWERB Chair NASPA Chair AWERB deputy Chair Named Information Officer (NIO) Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) NACWO/HOLC/NTCO representative Head of Assurance representative Chair of BRF User Forum PIL representative (x2) Independent, external lay member (x1) Deputy NVS Establishment Licence holder		
In attendance:	AWERB Secretary		
Minutes:	AWERB Secretary		
Acronyms	AWERB – Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body BRF – Biomedical Research Facility ECR – Early Career Researcher FEO – Favourable Ethical Opinion HOLC – Home Office Liaison Contact NASPA - Non-Animal in Scientific Procedures Act NACWO – Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer NEER – Non-Establishment Ethics Review NIO – Named Information Officer NVS – Named Veterinary Surgeon PILh – Personal Licence (holder) PPLh – Project Licence (holder) PELh – Establishment Licence (holder) RIGC – Research Integrity and Governance Committee SAGE-AR – Self-Assessment for Governance and Ethics – Animal Research URIC – University Research and Innovation Committee UAR – Understanding Animal Research		

Agenda Items:

Item		Action #
1.	Welcome and Apologies Chair welcomed all members. Apologies received from: Academic staff with relevant experience, Communications and Public Affairs, PIL representative	Apologies for absence to be sent to Chair in

		advance of meetings. (ALL)
2.	Approval of minutes and update on action log Previous meeting minutes (November 2025) were reviewed for accuracy and approved. 10/25: AWERB Chair and NEER Chair to work together to contact AWERB members with relevant experience to review NEER applications, and to identify a potential NEER Deputy 14/25: Placement Team: AWERB Chair has contacted the Student Placement team who agreed to stay connected and provide information on the of screening animal-related placements, especially those taking part overseas. 15/24: Tissue sharing platform has been shared successfully. The AWERB Chair will now circulate it more widely across the University to increase awareness and engagement with support from PELh	Carried forward On-going Carried forward
3.	Named Persons reports: Key points from: NACWO: The NACWO reported that six animals on project PP0204823 underwent EEG surgery but did not recover well and were subsequently culled due to either postoperative check-score concerns or scratching at the surgical site. It was noted that female animals respond poorly to this surgical procedure; therefore, the team has shifted to using males, who demonstrate better postoperative recovery. The team is also exploring the use of green clay on surgical wounds to help prevent animals from reopening the site through scratching. NVS: No updates. NTCO/HOLC: No ethical concerns to report. NASPA Chair: 25 SAGE-AR applications received, 11 NASPA applications and 1 amendment was received since 28th of October.	

	NIO: No ethical concerns to report. NIO provided comprehensive report with articles, papers and resources and training information. NEER Officer: No ethical concerns to report. An application (OUT095) was submitted to NEER. The NEER Officer will present the review outcomes to AWEBB to support discussion in this meeting. User Forum Chair: Th Chair reported 3Rs Enrichment UG Project is taking place where the team plans to use 16 cages of surplus mice to assess how different types of cage enrichment affect the wellbeing of young and old mice as part of a refinement-focused 3Rs study. Discussions are underway regarding the purchase of required equipment, including a video-camera system.	
4.	NEW PPL Presentation This project aims to develop new vaccines using shared technologies applicable to both human and veterinary medicine, with a focus on pathogens for which current vaccines are inadequate. It also seeks to better understand immune mechanisms to support improved cross-sector vaccine strategies. AWEBB members discussed the application. Collated comments from the meeting will be sent to the researcher for clarification.	
5.	PP2250582 license amendment Approved by chair's action	
6.	Proposal for Culture of Care/3Rs event A one day, practice focused event is being planned to strengthen scientific quality, animal welfare, and regulatory robustness by embedding 3Rs principles and good experimental design into routine research practice. The event will share case-based examples, promote dialogue between researchers, technologists, veterinary staff and AWEBB, and provide visible evidence of an active Culture of Care.	

	AWERB Chair to present at the All-Staff Meeting and decide on an appropriate date for delivering the event.	
7.	New (and departing) AWERB members The Chair thanked the departing external lay member for their long service to AWERB. The committee discussed several potential new lay members and agreed that the individuals identified could be suitable for AWERB, NASPA, or NEER. It was agreed that the committee will determine which committee each candidate is best suited to and then make contact accordingly. It was suggested that the local council should also be contacted as a potential route for identifying a new external lay member.	13/25 AWERB Chair
8.	NASPA application (canine diet) The committee reviewed a study examining how different whole diets affect gut and immune health in dogs. The project aims to identify early dietary biomarkers to support improved diagnosis and preventative veterinary care. The committee agreed unanimously that this study requires an ASPA application, as blood samples will be taken from dogs. It was also noted that the project will require Human Ethics Committee approval due to the involvement of owner-reported information and recruitment materials.	
9.	NEER application OUT095 relating to mouse models of Dengue fever application was discussed. The proposed work will take place in the USA and is intended to supplement a UKRI grant held at Surrey. The application was discussed by AWERB members, who concluded that it cannot receive AWERB approval. The committee discussed whether data generated from procedures not permitted under UK legislation specifically retro-orbital injection could be ethically accepted for use in a UK based project. The committee agreed unanimously (1 member abstained) that the uncertainty and inconsistency in submitted documentation, particularly regarding severity	

	classifications and endpoints, was a significant concern and therefore did not support the application for ethical approval.	
10.	Any other business An extra-ordinary AWERB Committee meeting will be scheduled for February to enable timely review of the of the licence application One member asked the Chair to ensure that meeting notes were sent out in a timely manner to allow all committee members to read prior to the meeting. The Chair agreed that , where possible, all notes will be provided at least 2 weeks in advance.	

Next AWERB committee meeting: 24th of March 2026 Teams Meeting	13:30-16:30
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AWERB ACTION LOG

Action Number	Action description	Person responsible	Status
Standing item	Apologies for absence to be sent to Chair in advance of meetings	(ALL)	-
Standing item	AWERB minutes (uploaded to BRF website)	NACWO	-
10/24	Webpage working group, Need for outward-facing content. Updating documents, update to be provided at next meeting.	AWERB Chair/NASPA Chair / BRF Forum Chair/Comms team	Carried forward
19/24	Communication planning on Animal Ethics	AWERB Chair/NIO	Carried forward
10/25	NEER activity support-deputy NEER needed	AWERB Chair/NEER Chair	On-going
12/25	3R Assessment tool: User Forum Chair to review NC3Rs user group recording and report back.	User Forum Chair	Carried forward
13/25	AWEB lay member recruitment to be discussed at March meeting	AWERB Chair	On-going
14/25	AWERB Chair to maintain contact with Placements Team	AWERB Chair	On-going

15/24	Tissue-sharing platform to be shared more widely across the University to increase visibility	AWERB Chair	On-going
1/26	Culture of Care/3Rs event organisation	AWERB Chair	

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