

Meeting:	Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)		
Date:	09th September 2025	Time:	13:30-15:00
Location:	In-person		
Members present:	AWERB Chair AWERB deputy Chair Named Information Officer (NIO) Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) NACWO/HOLC/NTCO Deputy NVS Communications and Public Affairs representative Head of Assurance representative NEER Officer Chair of BRF User Forum PIL representative (x2) Independent, external lay member (x1) Academic/staff with relevant experience (x2)		
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: NASPA Chair, PIL Representative, Academic/staff with relevant experience	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 (June 2025) were reviewed for accuracy and approved. 8/24: Tissue sharing database – update to be provided at this meeting 10/24: Webpage working group: NASPA Chair and User form Chair to work together with Surrey Digital Team to update BRF webpage 19/24: AWERB Chair and NIO will continue working on Communication planning on Animal ethics (University-wide campaign to raise awareness). 1/25: Action Closed 8/25: Changes to the SAGE-AR form and on ethics pages will be made. AWERB Committee members will receive a link to test the new version 10/25: AWERB Chair and NEER Chair to work together to find an individual to support processing of NEER activity. 11/25: Action Closed 12/25: No feedback yet	Carried forward On-going On-going Closed Carried forward Carried forward Closed Carried forward
3.	Chairs update The Chair of AWERB formally thanked the external lay member for their long-standing service to the Committee, noting that they will be stepping down from the role at the end of this year. In preparation for this transition, the Chair and Committee identified three potential individuals who may be suitable to take on the role. Additionally, it was suggested that recruiting a lay member from the local community would be beneficial to ensure broader representation and engagement.	

	Action: AWERB Lay Member recruitment	13/25 AWERB Chair
4.	Named Persons reports: Key points from: NVS: One SC18 report was submitted under PPL PP7099312 concerning a mouse treated under protocol 2. The animal was injected subcutaneously with cancer cells on 18 July and received intra-tumoral injections of a lower dose oncolytic virus on 28 and 31 July. Throughout the monitoring period, the animal's body weight remained stable, tumour size stayed within PPL limits, and no clinical signs were observed. The animal was found dead on 15 August. A preliminary report from the Veterinary Pathology Centre noted gross morphological abnormalities in the lung, liver, and spleen. The final histopathological report is pending. NACWO: No ethical concerns to report. See report for general issues. NTCO: No updates. HOLC: No ethical concerns to report. See report for general issues. NIO: No ethical concerns to report. See report for general issues. NASPA Chair: See report for details. 17 NASPA applications, 9 Light Touch NASPA applications and 2 amendments were received since 18th of June. NEER Officer: no ethical concerns to report. See the report for details of the ongoing NEER reviews. User Forum Chair: Tissue sharing platform SOP was created and will be shared with the AWERB Committee for review after review from AWERB/NASPA chairs and NACWO.	8/24 User Forum Chair
5.	PP0344017 retrospective review: The PPL holder gave a presentation outlining the purpose and progress of the project under the current PPL. The research aims to better understand the pathological processes of Buruli ulcer disease, a tropical skin condition caused by <i>Mycobacterium ulcerans</i>. The disease pathology is largely driven by the exotoxin mycolactone. The long-term goal of the project is to identify at least one drug—preferably one already licensed for other conditions (via drug repurposing)—that can counteract the effects of mycolactone and potentially be tested in future clinical settings.	

	A question was raised regarding whether the animals involved in the study experience pain. The PIL holder confirmed that the animals show no signs of pain or discomfort and continue to behave normally throughout the procedures.	
6.	PP0344017 application amendment Chair's action approval The Chair informed the Committee of an amendment application submitted under PPL PP0344017. The amendment received Chair's action approval, and the matter is now considered closed. The licence in question has now been signed off by the PELh.	
7.	3Rs-relevant projects and culture of care The Chair encouraged Committee members to share or present examples of how the 3Rs and a culture of care are being implemented within their projects, to raise awareness and promote best practices across AWERB. As an example, the Chair referenced work in their own lab, where a new Bayesian statistical framework is being developed. This approach aims to reduce the number of animals used and to identify early welfare indicators during the experimental design phase, allowing for timely intervention and refinement. NIO to share slide presentation on achieving a good culture of care previously mentioned at other meeting. It was proposed that introducing a dedicated "Culture of Care Day" could be a valuable initiative. Another suggestion was made to produce short videos showcasing examples of using 3Rs in research at Surrey. These videos could be developed in collaboration with the media team and shared via student-facing platforms to raise awareness and celebrate best practices.	
5.	AOB Student Placements Involving Animal Research It was recommended that students undertaking placements involving animal research be directed to complete the SAGE-AR form.	

	This process ensures that all placements involving animal work align with the University's ethical standards and that students are placed in environments we are confident in. Action: AWERB Chair to contact Placements Team	14/25 AWERB Chair
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Next AWERB committee meeting: 4th of November online	13:30-16:30
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