

# Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB)

19/18 A meeting of the Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) was held in Room G04 Henley Business School, Whiteknights House on Wednesday 11 September 2019 at 10.00 am.

Present: [Redacted, Section 40]  
[Redacted, Section 40]  
[Redacted, Section 40]  
[Redacted, Section 40]  
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Apologies: [Redacted, Section 40]  
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[Redacted, Section 40]  
[Redacted, Section 40]

[Redacted, Section 40]  
Language Sciences  
[Redacted, Section 40]

19/19 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 23 May 2019 were approved as a correct record.

19/20 Matters Arising

19/13 Severity Data

AWERB noted that the data was now available on the website. It was suggested that a definition of levels of severity for animal research procedures be detailed on the website.



The AWERB received a table paper from the < 3 F E B D U F E 4 F D U J P O >. It was reported that since the last AWERB no major health concerns had been identified during visits. There had, however been reports from some users that there had been 'unexplained' deaths in their mice, together with some other health issues. It was noted that [Redacted, Section 40] had requested further information in order to better investigate the issues.

The AWERB noted a summary of some issues reported:

Hydrocephalus occurred in a significant number of animals from a single litter at around the time of weaning. This was occasionally seen in animals on a C57Bl background and was likely to be congenital in origin.

Fighting or injury was reported on 14 occasions in June and July 2019. Aggression in laboratory mice was reported as a problem worldwide and was associated with gender, strain, and husbandry events. It was also clear that no single intervention would prevent aggression in all strains and a multimodal approach was needed. Staff within the BRU were employing multiple strategies for addressing this issue, including additional enrichment and reducing the frequency of cleaning out. However, it was likely that there would always be some aggressive encounters. It was the nature of group housed mice.

Sudden death or poor health resulting in the animals being culled was reported in 18 mice in the same time period. Of these, 11 were Ercc1 variants, all approximately 3 months old and several were from the same litter. Three

microbiology or PCR. These could be sent for analysis immediately or stored for evaluation at some future time point should it there be any questions about possible changes to animal health.

It was noted that the post-surgical complications seen were not attributable to a specific cause, but it was possible that they were associated with aseptic technique. The < 3 F E B D U F E 4 F D U P O > express concern on her last visit over the standard of asepsis during surgical procedures. Compliance with the new SOP for aseptic surgery was therefore mandatory, although it must be recognised that some of the requirements represented an additional burden on research groups, and practises needed to be developed to make it easy for researchers to comply with the requirements.

AWERB requested that [Redacted, Section 40] follow un llune0oe(6Td (an)Tjw (researcher)T6 T