



**Supplementary  
resources for  
members of local  
Ethical Review  
Processes:  
An introduction**



## Aim of these resources

The guidance notes in this series are intended to be easy-to-use summaries of current good practice for some of the animal welfare issues that local Ethical Review Processes (ERPs) have to address. The notes are linked to '[A resource book for lay members of Local Ethical Review Processes](#)' and have been produced with lay members in mind. However, we hope they will prove useful to ERP members in general, and to other types of animal care and use or ethics committees around the world.

- Jennings M & Smith JA (2009) [A resource book for lay members of local Ethical Review Processes, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.](#) See [www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/researchanimals/ethicalreview](http://www.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/researchanimals/ethicalreview)

## Introduction

Good animal welfare goes hand in hand with good quality science [see [FELASA](#), below], so there is considerable benefit to reducing animal suffering and providing a good quality of life for laboratory animals. This principle should be applied to the lifetime experience of the animals - to housing and care, transport, handling and restraint and euthanasia, as well as to experimental procedures. However, identifying good practice is not always easy - Codes of Practice may present minimum standards, not good practice; there may be a plethora of information in the scientific literature; or relevant material may not be very accessible.

These guidance notes summarise the available information on a selection of topics to help those not expert in the field to understand and contribute more to ERP discussions. They are intended to be dynamic, and are updated as knowledge about animal behaviour and welfare progresses. Visits to the animal facilities and discussions with relevant staff such as the Named Veterinary Surgeon (NVS) and Named Animal Care and Welfare Officer/s (NACWOs) are also important and the notes should be used in conjunction with these activities.

- [FELASA Working Group Standardization of Enrichment](#) (2006) Working Group Report. See [www.lal.org.uk](http://www.lal.org.uk) and click on "Education & Training" then "Refinement and Animal Welfare".

## List of topics

Available now at [www.rspca.org.uk/ethicalreview](http://www.rspca.org.uk/ethicalreview) (click on 'Housing and care'):

- [Housing and care for a range of species.](#) These give a 'feel' for the nature of the animals to set their needs in context, then they list most important housing and care requirements, with a focus on providing environmental enrichment. The guides do not cover the physical environment for each species, since this is adequately covered in the Home Office Codes of Practice. Neither do they address specific veterinary or health issues, or the welfare issues arising from the research for which the animals are used.
- [Good practice for humane killing.](#) This includes principles of humane killing, refining Schedule 1 methods, making decisions about non-Schedule 1 methods and a summary of current knowledge about the use of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- [Cage cleaning: Mice and rats.](#) An overview of current thinking on cage cleaning protocols to minimise stress.

In preparation:

- [Welfare assessment](#)
- [Identification](#)
- [Fasting](#)
- [Telemetry](#)



## Recommended reading and resources

### Books

- RSPCA/LASA (2010) *Guiding principles on good practice for Ethical Review Processes*. <http://tinyurl.com/22kkhlh>
- UFAW (2010) *The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals*, 8<sup>th</sup> edn. (ed. by Robert Hubrecht and James Kirkwood). Wiley-Blackwell.
- Baumans V et al. (2007) *Making Lives Easier for Animals in Research Labs: Discussions by the Laboratory Animal Refinement and Enrichment Forum* (ed. by Vera Baumans and others). Washington, DC: Animal Welfare Institute, [www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org)
- Kaliste E (2004) *The Welfare of Laboratory Animals*. (ed. by Eila Kaliste). The Netherlands: Kluwer
- Reinhardt V & Reinhardt A (eds) (2002) *Comfortable Quarters for Laboratory Animals*, 9<sup>th</sup> edn. Washington DC: Animal Welfare Institute, [www.awionline.org](http://www.awionline.org)  
NOTE: the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of *Comfortable Quarters* is under production at the time of writing.
- Young RJ (2003) *Environmental Enrichment for Captive Animals*. UFAW/Blackwell Animal Welfare Series. Blackwell Publishing

### Journals

The following journals regularly publish papers on laboratory animal behaviour and welfare:

- *Animal Technology and Welfare* - the journal of the UK Institute of Animal Technology [www.iat.org.uk/publications/atw.htm](http://www.iat.org.uk/publications/atw.htm)
- *Animal Welfare* - the journal of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, this covers all areas of human-animal interaction including laboratory animals [www.ufaw.org.uk/animal.php](http://www.ufaw.org.uk/animal.php)
- *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* - the official journal of the International Society for Applied Ethology (ISAE). This reports mainly on farmed animal behaviour, but includes some papers on animals used in the laboratory, or their wild equivalents [www.applied-ethology.org/thejournalaabs.htm](http://www.applied-ethology.org/thejournalaabs.htm)
- *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science (JAAWS)* - covers companion, farmed, wild and laboratory animals [www.psyeta.org/jaaws](http://www.psyeta.org/jaaws)
- *Lab Animal* - both the USA and European versions [www.labanimal.com](http://www.labanimal.com)
- *Laboratory Animals* - not to be confused with the journals above; this is the official journal of a number of bodies including the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations [www.lal.org.uk](http://www.lal.org.uk)

### Online

- The UK National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research (NC3Rs) website has an information portal that can be used to search for husbandry refinements ([www.nc3rs.org.uk](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk))
- The US Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) has improving laboratory animal housing and care as a key goal. It has produced a very useful searchable database on enrichment with summaries of many of the papers included ([www.awionline.org/lab\\_animals/index.htm](http://www.awionline.org/lab_animals/index.htm)).

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Helping animals through welfare science

