Being an effective lay member of an AWERB

What you should know

The AWERB tasks, membership and role within the organisation

ANIMAL USE AT THE ESTABLISHMENT

Numbers and species of animals

Number of projects and areas of research

Severity of procedures

CULTURE OF CARE

how the establishment defines, drives and assesses this

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

is public information (e.g. on website or for the media) meaningful and balanced?

Your role

Providing a different and independent perspective

Asking the questions an interested member of the public might ask

Helping to consider whether and how animals are used

Asking how animal suffering is avoided or minimised

You are not expected to be ‘an expert’ or have in-depth knowledge of science

Practical things to do

VISIT THE ANIMAL UNIT
to see the animals and talk to people caring for them

GET TO KNOW OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR AWERB
e.g. Chair, vet, animal technologists, scientists, other lay members

EXPLAIN YOUR VIEWS CLEARLY TO RESEARCHERS
and show an interest in their work

Making a difference

Consider the animal’s perspective and their lifetime experiences

Constructively challenge proposed ‘harms’ and ‘benefits’ when reviewing research projects

Encourage continuous improvement in standards of animal welfare and science

Help create a supportive environment for discussions

Ask for specific examples of how:

3Rs each of the 3Rs is being implemented

the establishment exceeds legal minimum standards for animal welfare

ethical issues are identified and considered

ATTEND

events for lay and other AWERB members

READ

web resource on ‘Ethical review’

OTHER USEFUL LINKS

Animals in Science Regulation Unit

NC3Rs

Norecopa