

# For Lay Members

As a lay, or independent, member, you will bring an essential perspective to the AWERB - provided that you are given the training, support and resources you need. Remember that you are not expected to be an expert in specialist fields such as the 3Rs, animal welfare science and experimental design. The AWERB benefits from your 'fresh eye' and different ways of thinking, which contributes to ensuring the integrity of the AWERB and helps the establishment to understand how members of the public might view their work.



## Points to consider:

- Have you received appropriate induction and training to be an AWERB member?
- Do you feel supported by the Chair, and other AWERB members, in meetings? Do you ever feel unable to ask questions, or unsure as to how to deal with the answers?
- Is there a clear communication channel if you have any concerns about your role, the working of the AWERB, or processes at the establishment?
- Have you been given the opportunity to visit the animal unit, meet staff with different roles, and get to know the other AWERB members?

## Resources to help with the above:

Being an effective lay member of an [AWERB infographic](#)

[RSPCA Lay Members Resource Book](#)

[RSPCA/LASA Guiding Principles on Developing Induction Materials for AWERB Members](#)

includes examples of induction activities and a self-assessment checklist for you

[RSPCA/LASA Guiding Principles on Good Practice for AWERBs](#) provides information on all the AWERB's tasks

You should be offered a visit to the animal unit, as long as this can be done safely and without stressing the animals - [this sheet will help you prepare](#)

[This sheet sets out good practice tips](#) to help you contribute to meetings constructively and effectively

The [Animals in Science Committee](#) Knowledge Hub forum includes a virtual lay members' area - contact [asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk) for membership

The RSPCA holds meetings and workshops for lay members - [find out more](#)

For more resources like this, see the [AWERB Directory](#) from the RSPCA  
[Animals in Science Department](#)

