



Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies - moving forward

An RSPCA/LASA/LAVA/IAT AWERB-UK meeting

London, 20 June 2019

Background:

The AWERB is now well established, with greater efforts being made to fulfil all of its tasks; the Animals in Science Committee Hub Network is starting to operate more effectively; and the Knowledge Hub has been established. However, there is still of room for improvement with respect to a number of issues, including: communications both *from* and *to* AWERBs, levels of support and resource for AWERBs, and liaison with other relevant bodies within establishments, such as Research Governance and User Groups. For a summary of the meeting, click [here](#)

This meeting aimed to:

- discuss and define what the AWERB, and its members, need to feel supported, respected, incentivised and fully integrated into the establishment, enabling them to have a genuine impact;
- identify the key bodies and persons (within and outside the establishment) that need to be convinced of the AWERB's importance, in order to achieve the above, and how best to influence these; and
- explore the potential for training for AWERB Chairs, since they are critical *at the local level* to developing and maintaining an effective, empowered AWERB.

Welcome – Ken Applebee (IAT)
Developing support for your AWERB – chaired by Anne-Marie Farmer (LASA)
Defining a ‘successful’ AWERB – Penny Hawkins (RSPCA) Click here for slides
The AWERB – there to help, not hinder, research – Janet Watson (CRUK Manchester) Click here
Thinking big – the challenge of communication – Lesley Penny (University of Edinburgh) Click here for slides and here for example postcard
Training a new AWERB member – Khawar Abbas (University of Leeds) Click here
Assessing AWERB effectiveness – Katherine Knight (ASRU) Click here
Interactive session
Discussion including: what AWERBs need to feel supported and respected (responses here and outcome of a poll here); how they can achieve this; who they need to influence and how. The session set out action plans for AWERBs and their members (responses here)
The power of the chair - chaired by Ngaire Dennison (LAVA)
Appearing before the AWERB from the scientist’s point of view – Tracey Newman (University of Southampton) Click here
Chairing an NHS Research Ethics Committee – Eamonn Walsh (chair of NHS Queen Square REC) Click here
Confessions of an AWERB chair – Professor Craig Lygate (University of Oxford) Click here
Interactive session
Discussion including: challenges for AWERB chairs (responses here) and qualities that make a good AWERB chair (responses here)



The meeting was organised by:

Penny Hawkins & Maggy Jennings - RSPCA

Anne-Marie Farmer - LASA

Ken Applebee - IAT

Ngairé Dennison - LAVA

Please contact research.animals@rspca.org.uk if you would like any further information about this meeting, or you have suggestions for future topics.