



Lay Members' Forum Scotland

Friday 21 September, 2018

Queen's Medical Research Institute,
47 Little France Crescent, Edinburgh, EH16 4TJ





Lay Members' Forum Scotland 2018

10:15 Arrival and registration, with tea, coffee and biscuits		
11:00 - 11:10	Welcome and introduction	Maggy Jennings RSPCA
11:10 - 11:40	Can you see the 3Cs? Inspecting the AWERB - <i>A talk setting out the full list of AWERB tasks, so the audience can consider how effectively their AWERBs address these</i>	Katherine Knight Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU)
11:40 - 12:10	Developing the Culture of Care - <i>How the AWERB can contribute to developing and promoting a positive culture</i>	Ngaire Dennison University of Dundee
12:10 - 12:55	Tackling the Non-Technical Summary - <i>How lay members can help ensure the NTS is fit for purpose and understood by other lay people - with interactive discussion</i>	Donald Bruce Edinethics
12:55 - 1:55 Lunch		
1:55 - 2:25	Ethical challenges of work in the wild - <i>Working with fish, skates and rays – special challenges and wider ethical issues</i>	James Thorburn University of St Andrews
2:25 - 3:15	Project review discussion session - <i>Recognising harms, evaluating benefits and creating the right environment – an interactive discussion based around case studies</i>	Maggy Jennings, Penny Hawkins Jane Smith RSPCA
3:15 – 3:30	Closing remarks and take-home messages	
3:30	Close	

Can you see the 3cs? Inspecting the AWERB

Katherine Knight, Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU)

This presentation aims to highlight the mandatory and additional tasks required of an AWERB and highlight how ASRU inspects the effectiveness of the AWERB by assessing the 3Cs: Communication; Collaboration & Challenge.

The minimum tasks required of AWERBs are:

- (a) advise staff dealing with animals in the licensed establishment on matters related to the welfare of the animals, in relation to their acquisition, accommodation, care and use;
- (b) advise on the application of the 3Rs, and keep it informed of relevant technical and scientific developments;
- (c) establish and review management and operational processes for monitoring, reporting and follow-up in relation to the welfare of animals housed or used in the licensed establishment;
- (d) follow the development and outcome (retrospective review) of projects carried out in the establishment, taking into account the effect on the animals used; and to identify and advise on elements that could further contribute to the 3Rs; and
- (e) advise on re-homing schemes, including the appropriate socialisation of the animals to be re-homed.

Additional tasks for AWERBs include advising the establishment licence holder whether to support project proposals, and bringing local knowledge and local expertise to bear; assisting with the retrospective assessment of relevant projects carried out at their establishment; and responding to enquiries, and considering advice received, from the Animals in Science Committee. Also AWERBs should promote awareness of animal welfare and the 3Rs; provide a forum for discussion and development of ethical advice to the establishment licence holder on all matters related to animal welfare, care and use at their establishment; support named persons, and other staff dealing with animals, on animal welfare, ethical issues and provision of appropriate training; and help to promote a 'culture of care' within the establishment and, as appropriate, in the wider community.

During the talk I'll emphasise what we look out for when inspecting the AWERB and what 'good' looks like when an AWERB approaches these tasks.

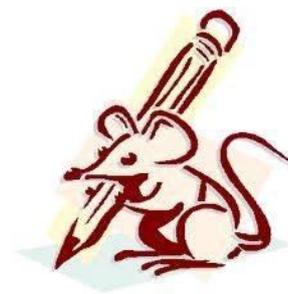
Useful links:

Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986
[gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291350/Guidance on the Operation of ASPA.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291350/Guidance_on_the_Operation_of_ASPA.pdf)

RSPCA/LASA Guiding Principles on Good Practice for Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies, 3rd edition tinyurl.com/RSPCA-LASA-AWERB

A resource book for lay members of ethical review and similar bodies worldwide
tinyurl.com/RSPCALMH

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Developing the culture of care

Ngairé Dennison

This presentation aims to discuss what is meant by a Culture of Care (CoC), look at how a CoC can be fostered and consider specifically how the AWERB can help its development.

In developing a CoC, as well as considering the best practice from within the laboratory animal sector, for example the interview with Dr Marilyn Brown posted on the NC3Rs news blog¹, we can also learn from other sectors and organisations.

Recently, the NHS has reviewed its CoC in response to a number of high profile cases, such as Winterbourne View and the Mid-Staffordshire Foundation Trust², where there were clear failings in care for patients. The Francis Report "Freedom to Speak Up"³ was commissioned to look into how to create the right CoC for patient safety and was followed by the introduction of "the 6Cs"⁴ as values essential to compassionate care.

These 6Cs are: **care, compassion, competence, communication, courage and commitment** and these make an excellent starting point for the AWERB in considering how a CoC can be encouraged within their organisation. In the context of those working under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, the 6Cs can be thought of as:

- Care: Consistent and appropriate care of all animals throughout their lives
- Compassion: "Intelligent kindness" in interactions with animals, including treating them with respect and empathy
- Competence: Having the expertise and technical knowledge to perform tasks (including both husbandry and procedure related) in an appropriate manner to minimise harms to animals and maximise scientific outputs
- Communication: Essential between all those involved in the care and use of animals
- Courage: To speak up when there are concerns or questions and having the personal strength and vision to innovate and embrace change that improves the lives of research animals
- Commitment: For all to do their best and continue to improve the care and experience of these animals

A culture of care cannot be imposed on an organisation from outside: it needs to be owned and led by the leadership and staff of an organisation. In addressing the 5 Tasks of article 27 of the Directive 2010/63 EU⁵, the AWERB has a pivotal role in leading the CoC. It can influence the values, norms and expectations of the organisation in many ways.

These include supporting the 3Rs, including monitoring training and giving recognition for those who innovate and develop best practice. The AWERB can help in the setting of local minimum standards and give a forum that allows concerns to be openly discussed and addressed. It can support the development of a “just” rather than “blame” culture and set challenges to encourage innovation and ongoing improvements.

References:

¹ <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/news/creating-culture-care>

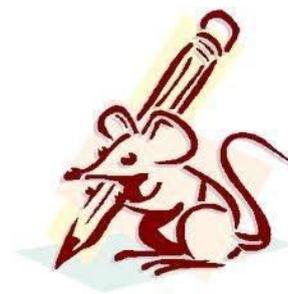
² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/279124/0947.pdf

³ <http://freedomtospeakup.org.uk/the-report/>

⁴ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/6cs/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2015/03/introducing-the-6cs.pdf>

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32010L0063&from=EN>

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Tackling the non-technical summary

Donald Bruce, Edinethics

Each time a scientist applies for a licence to perform animal experiments, it is a statutory requirement for them to write a 'Non-Technical Summary' (NTS) of their proposed study. But this formal duty can be a challenge. Some scientists are good at communicating in ways understandable to the non-expert; others, sadly, are not. NTSs range from the excellent to the almost incomprehensible. AWERB Lay members have a special role to play here: if the NTS is not understandable and sufficiently descriptive for them, it does not fulfil its statutory purpose.

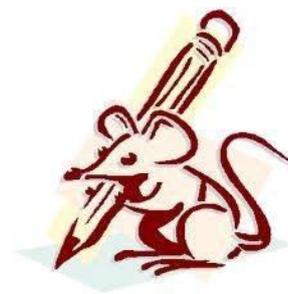
This interactive session will:

- explore how lay members can help ensure the NTS is fit for purpose and understood by other lay people;
- the main features of a lay summary will be examined and some pitfalls identified, with examples of good and bad practice;
- some examples will be given to critique and improve: what does and does not communicate to a lay person; and
- we will also consider how a lay member might best interact with the AWERB and the scientist, in practice, and how might lay summaries better fulfil the role of keeping the wider population informed of what is being researched in their name.

Useful link:

<http://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/news/communications-media/guidance-for-writing-a-nts/>

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Ethical challenges of work in the wild

James Thorburn, University of St Andrews

When working with animals in the wild, it is often important to reflect on why you are doing the work. Is it to satisfy curiosity, or do your intentions have a wider meaning where the information gathered is to specifically understand how to manage and conserve the study species and its environment more effectively? In order to implement effective conservation, we need to understand how a species interacts with its environment. This enables us to focus management around core habitats that are important to critical life stages, such as reproduction or feeding events. In these spaces, management can disproportionately benefit individuals, populations or an entire species depending on the scale. However, to undertake this approach to management, we need to have a good understanding of the animal's behaviour over the course of time. In the terrestrial environment, we are fortunate enough to have sophisticated technology to help us and, importantly, we can directly observe animals interact with the natural environment but, what do we do when we lower our sights below the surface of our oceans to a world where such day to day observations are not possible?

One of the best tools we have at our disposal for tracking aquatic animals, such as fish, sharks and skate, are tags. These range from simple ID tags through to electronic tags that allow us to recreate these movements afterwards or by transmitting an acoustic signal that we can track. To use these tags most animals need catching and removing from the water in often quite challenging environments. Working in these environments often increases the challenges of ensuring the animal's welfare and can complicate experimental design due to uncertainty in data retrieval and poor species knowledge. It also touches on wider issues on working with fish in comparison to other animals. There are conflicting views on fish awareness, cognitive ability and their ability to feel pain, all of which can affect the general perception on welfare and the necessity for pain management in fish when working with them. This is furthered in elasmobranchs (sharks, skates and rays) due to their apparent lack of nociceptors (pain sensors) and the public perception of fear for many species in this group hindering the demand for the development of appropriate procedural practises. This talk will cover some of the challenges encountered working with these animals in the wild and how we, and others globally, try and overcome these challenges.

Links and references of interest:

How smart are fish?:

https://www.mvls.gla.ac.uk/Teaching/SmartFish/story_html5.html

NE. Kohler & PA. Turner 2001. Shark Tagging: A Review Of Conventional Methods and Studies. Environmental Biology of Fishes Volume 60, Issue 1–3, pp 191–224

ST. Kessel & NE. Hussey 2015. Tonic immobility as an anaesthetic for elasmobranchs during surgical implantation procedures. Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, 2015, 72(9): 1287-1291

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The NC3Rs has produced an 18 minute Three Rs training video aimed at scientists, animal technologists, students and others involved with animal research - you can download it at nc3rs.org.uk/news/introductory-training-3rs-time-fresh-approach

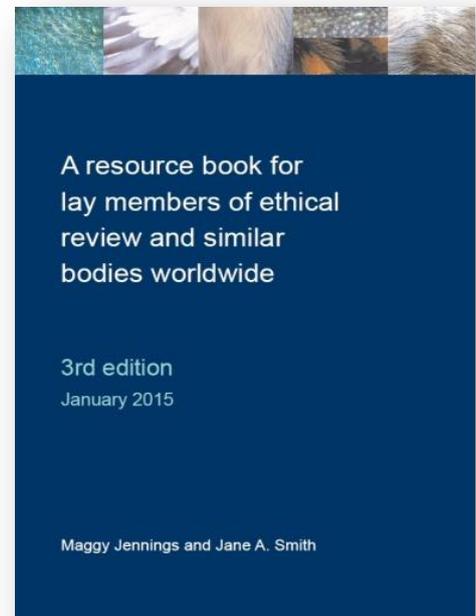
RESOURCES



The **RSPCA/LASA Guiding Principles on Good Practice for Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies, 3rd edition** provides a brief, clear overview of common AWERB tasks and good practice for meeting these: tinyurl.com/RSPCA-LASA-AWERB

The **RSPCA Lay Members' Resource Book, 3rd edition** provides guidance on how to participate effectively in the AWERB, including making ethical judgements (NB although the title refers to lay members, the content is relevant to all member categories):

tinyurl.com/RSPCALMH



A resource book for lay members of ethical review and similar bodies worldwide

3rd edition
January 2015

Maggy Jennings and Jane A. Smith



DELIVERING EFFECTIVE ETHICAL REVIEW:

The AWERB as a
'forum for discussion'

This booklet provides guidance, ideas and examples to help AWERBs fulfil their **forum for discussion** function. An online page turner/PDF is available at: view.pagetiger.com/AWERB/AWERB

AWERB AND THREE RS POSTERS



Please contact research.animals@rspca.org.uk if you would like one or more posters, remembering to state which one(s)

Further Reading

The second AWERB-UK meeting, for all AWERB members - including scientists, animal technologists, lab animal vets, AWERB chairs and lay members - was jointly convened by the RSPCA, IAT, LASA and LAVA and held in June 2017.

The meeting summary is available at: tinyurl.com/AWERB-UK2017

Please note that opinions expressed by speakers do not necessarily reflect the views of the RSPCA, its staff, members or associates

