Communication and the Culture of Care

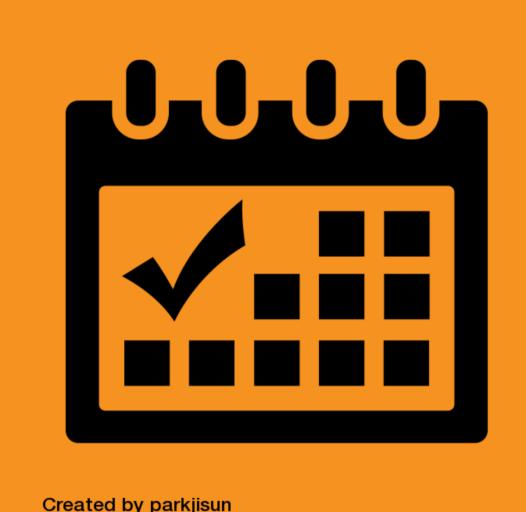
Penny Hawkins, RSPCA Research Animals Department on behalf of the International Culture of Care Network*

Effective two-way communication between scientists and animal technologists is essential for a good Culture of Care

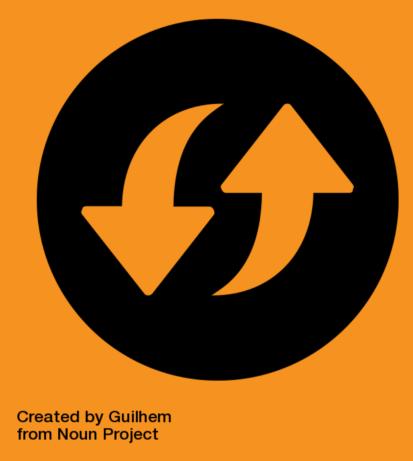
The European Commission suggests the 'development of formal and informal communication channels, for mutual benefit with respect to science and animal welfare' Here are some examples from International Culture of Care network members

Regular meetings

Scheduled meetings for scientists, animal technologists, vets, unit managers and AWERB members



Regular refresher/update meetings for all organised by NTCO



Special events

Duo-talks: researcher talks about their science, and animal technologists talk about techniques and animal care within the project

ELH organises an informal meeting for all, in which anyone can raise welfare issues



Building communication into existing processes

Each study has a prestart and wash-up meeting involving everybody



Three Rs improvements reported to AWERB & shared at external user meetings



Other ideas

A 'boxless' event: anyone can submit 'out of the box' ideas to improve practice



A staff survey for all
e.g. how much do you
agree with statements such
as 'in our group we listen to
each others' ideas about
animal welfare'



