



RSPCA Lay Members' Forum 2022

8 December

Friends House, 173-177 Euston Rd, London NW1 2BJ

Topic one: **How lay members can help to create an environment that actively encourages Replacement.** There are several AWERB tasks relating to this; advising on the **application of the 3Rs**, keeping staff informed of relevant **technical and scientific developments**; **retrospective review**; and supporting named persons and other staff dealing with animals on animal welfare, ethical issues and **provision of appropriate training** - in addition to consideration of replacement during **project licence application review**.

Topic two: **Self-assessment for AWERBs, focusing on the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) audit process.**

Registration: £80

10.20	Welcome and introduction – Maggy Jennings, RSPCA
Topic 1 - Lay members and Replacement	
10.25-10.40	Commitments to transitioning away from lab animal use - Barney Reed, RSPCA <i>Governments, companies and other organisations are increasingly making commitments towards the goal of phasing in 'Non-Animal Technologies' and phasing out animal experiments. This talk will provide some examples and describe a vision for phasing out animal use in the UK, including the role that AWERBs - and lay members - can play</i>
10.40-10.55	AWERB tasks relating to Replacement - Chloe Stevens, RSPCA <i>Although Replacement features in several AWERB tasks (see above), in practice in some establishments it may only be addressed during the review of project licence applications. It can be more productive to pursue the topic through the other relevant tasks, looking to create a culture that actively encourages and supports Replacement. Lay members can have an important role in driving such activities</i>
10.55-11.25	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What do lay members feel they need to know about Replacement?• How can they find out; what kinds of training are feasible, has anyone received good training or does anyone receive information from the establishment?
11.25-11.45	Break with biscuits
11.45-12.05	Supporting AWERBs with more effective replacement technology searches – thoughts from the NC3Rs - Ah-Lai Law, NC3Rs <i>How the NC3Rs supports AWERBs, including practical guidance on how to search for replacement technologies</i>

12.05-12.15	Setting the scene - Beth Greenhough, Animal Research Nexus <i>Two short scenarios, with 'good' and 'not so good' interactions between applicants and lay members, followed by ...</i>
12.15-12.45	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What questions can lay members ask about Replacement? • How to deal with unhelpful answers?
12.45-1.00	Gene editing animals - just another 'tool'? - Penny Hawkins, RSPCA <i>Gene editing technology has been used in the laboratory for decades, but it is increasingly being applied (or proposed) for farm, wild and companion animals. There is considerable debate around the ethical and animal welfare implications, including whether it is fundamentally different from other ways of modifying animals and which purposes are - and are not - acceptable</i>
1.00-1.50	Lunch
Topic 2 - AWERB self-assessment	
1.50-2.10	The Home Office Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU) audit process for AWERBs - Kate Chandler, ASRU <i>An explanation of the elements of the establishment audit process that apply to AWERBs, including what criteria are used to assess compliance and how lay members are involved</i>
2.10-2.20	A lay member's experience of the audit interview – Simon Kometa, University of Newcastle
2.20-2.30	Tough love – using self-assessment to strengthen our AWERB activities - Jenny Ritchie, University of Surrey
2.30-2.40	Our AWERB self-assessment process – Matt Leach, Newcastle University
2.40-3.20	Discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are lay members' experiences of developing self-assessment for AWERBs? • How can lay members help to improve the process? • Will the ASRU audit process drive better reflection and self-assessment by AWERBs, and how could lay members keep the momentum going?
3.20-3.30	Wrap up <i>We will use Padlet to collect your (anonymised) main take-home messages and action points, then share these with you after the event</i>
3.30	Close

Registration form: tinyurl.com/RSPCALMF22