AWERB-UK

Delivering an effective AWERB – Challenges and solutions
A forum for UK AWERB members organised by RSPCA, LASA, LAVA and IAT
Central London, Thursday, 12 May 2016

This meeting provided a forum for Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body (AWERB) members to discuss how they have made progress with respect to achieving all of the AWERB’s tasks, compare experiences, discuss relevant topics and identify any training needs. It was attended by 106 participants representing a range of AWERB members including animal technologists, project licence holders, Named Persons, lay and independent members.

The meeting agenda is set out below, with links to speakers’ presentations and notes from the ten workshops that were held on the day. We hope that all of this content is useful for members of AWERBs, Animal Welfare Bodies and other ethics or animal care and use committees. We would also like to encourage others to use this agenda as a template for running similar meetings to help progress effective ethical review - please contact research.animals@rspca.org.uk if you would like further information about how the meeting was convened and run.

The organisers plan to hold further AWERB-UK meetings and to follow up on the various issues and conclusions raised by this first meeting; please use the above email address if you have any comments on these or would like to be kept informed about future initiatives.

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<tr>
<th>Welcome and introduction - Penny Hawkins, RSPCA</th>
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<td>Keynote presentation on the tasks of the AWERB - Will Reynolds, Head of Policy and Administration, Animals in Science Regulation Unit - Home Office</td>
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<td>Update on the Animals in Science Committee’s work on AWERBs - John Landers, ASC Chair</td>
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<td>Five workshops on selected AWERB tasks</td>
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<td>Advise on the application of the 3Rs, and keep [staff] informed of relevant technical and scientific developments</td>
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<td>Follow the development and outcome (retrospective review) of projects; and assist with retrospective assessment</td>
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<td>Provide a forum for discussion and development of ethical advice</td>
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<td>Support named persons, and other staff dealing with animals, on animal welfare, ethical issues and provision of appropriate training</td>
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<td>Help to promote a ‘culture of care’ within the establishment and, as appropriate, in the wider community</td>
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<td>Lunchtime ‘materials exchange’ session for sharing useful AWERB-related resources</td>
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Applying the 3Rs and improving practice - a case study and discussion session on using information from scientific developments to inform project review and revise local practice

Aversion to carbon dioxide and inhalational anaesthesia in rodents - Huw Golledge, UFAW

Role-related discussions

Sessions for each broad ‘category’ of AWERB member - each with a topic chosen and session organised by the relevant body:

Chairs and Establishment Licence Holders (ELH) - organised by ELH Forum
Animal technologists - by IAT
Named Vets - by LAVA
Other members - by RSPCA
Scientists - by LASA

The meeting and its workshops were organised by:

Penny Hawkins & Maggy Jennings - RSPCA
David Anderson - LASA
Ken Applebee & Sarah Lane - IAT
Ute Weyer & Ngaire Dennison - LAVA
Brian Burlinson - Envigo
Anne-Marie Farmer - University of Cambridge
Pru Hobson-West - University of Nottingham
Patrick Sinnett-Smith - Pfizer
Jane Smith - The Boyd Group
Charles Gentry - Establishment Licence Holders’ Forum