



# The RSPCA and the 3Rs

The scientific animal welfare organisation as a catalyst for change.



Elliot Lilley



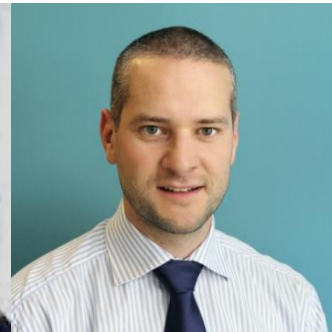
# Research Animals Department

- Principal goal = replacement of animals with humane alternatives
- **ROBUST ETHICAL REVIEW OF ANIMAL USE**
  - Challenging necessity and justification
- **EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE THREE RS**

RAD part of  
RSPCA Science Group  
CAD FAD WLD  
Science driven policy



Penny



Barney



Elliot



Juliet

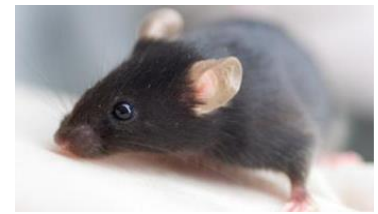
# Research Animals Department



## Our approach

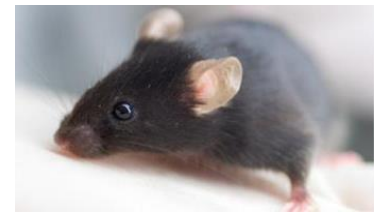
- Long history of working with the scientific community
  - Researchers, regulators, animal care staff
- Challenge from 'within'
  - Ethical review, actual severity reporting, training & competency
- Highlighting problems *and* finding practical solutions

# Our key areas of work



- Challenging the use of animals - ethically and scientifically
- Ensuring effective, well enforced regulation of animal experiments
- Raising standards internationally
- Promoting debate which is open and honest
- Promoting animal welfare in tertiary education
- Reducing the use and suffering of lab animals

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## PUBLICATIONS

[Download LASA By-laws](#)
[Guiding Principles for Supervision and Assessment of Competence as required under EU and UK Legislation \(LASA 2013\)](#)
[Guiding Principles for the new Named Persons \(LASA/LAVA/IAT 2016\)](#)
[Severe Suffering web resource \(RSPCA/LASA/LAVA/IAT 2016\)](#)
[Guiding principles on good practice for Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies 3rd Edition \(RSPAC/LASA 2015\)](#)
[Guiding Principles for Behavioural Laboratory Animal Science \(LASA, BAP, BNA & ESSWAP 2013\)](#)

- advise on **removing** laboratory animals.
- respond to enquiries and consider advice received from the **National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes** (known as the **Animals in Science Committee** in the UK).

### LINKS

[Legislation and other links](#)

### TWITTER

#### Tweets About [lasa\\_uk](#)

**LASA**  
@LASA\_UK

Our Summer Reception is being held today at the @RCPLondon starting at 6pm

**LASA**  
@LASA\_UK

We're London bound for LASA work today. Lovely day in #London town

RAD staff sit on multiple UK AWERBS including Pharmaceutical companies, Universities, Medical Research Charities and CROs



## Events for members of AWERBs

### AWERB Lay Members' Forum

Since 1999, the RSPCA has been organising a regular meeting for lay and other members of Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies (AWERBs). The meetings provide a forum for people to come together and share experiences of their work. Presentations on some of the many important issues that AWERBs cover are combined with opportunities for group discussion. You can read about many of the previous events below. Ideas for topics to consider at the Forum are always welcome.



#### 2014

The most recent Forum was held in December. Topics included: assessing harms and benefits; experimental design and translatability; fish welfare; retrospective review; update from the European Commission.

[Abstract booklet \(2014\) \(PDF 1.64MB\)](#).

#### 2013

The programme included a range of scientific, welfare and ethical topics and also covered issues relating to the implementation of the revised UK law. [Abstract booklet \(2013\) \(PDF 891KB\)](#)

#### 2012

Topics included: transposition of Directive 2010/63/EU – with emphasis on issues of particular relevance to the ethical review process; how lay members would like to see the local ethical review process and the new national [Animals in Science Committee](#) develop in the future. [Abstract booklet \(2012\) \(PDF 861KB\)](#).

#### 2011

The theme of 'Making difficult decisions'. Topics included: [evaluating harms and benefits](#) of new technologies; issues relating to humane endpoints and cumulative suffering; harms and benefits in behavioural pharmacology; and the challenge of ethical review in a global context. [Abstract booklet \(2011\) \(PDF 592KB\)](#)



**RSPCA - Lab Animals**

@RSPCA\_LabAnimal

Just held workshop on ethical review of animal use, great talks & discussion! Thank you [@SEBiology](#) for putting this on the agenda. [#SEB3Rs](#)



**RSPCA - Lab Animals**

@RSPCA\_LabAnimal

Just held a really successful session on ethical review of animal use at [#FELASA2016](#) - great turnout & discussions! [#3Rs](#)



Institute of  
Animal Technology

### 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.

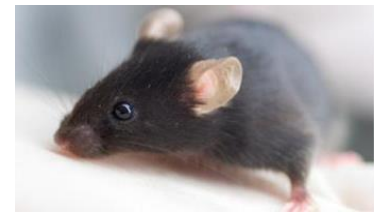
The meeting agenda is set out below, with links to speakers' presentations and notes from the ten workshops that were held on the day. We hope that all of this content is useful for members of AWERBs, Animal Welfare Bodies and other ethics or animal care and use committees. We would also like to encourage 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](mailto: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.

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



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- Ongoing meetings with senior Home Office (UK regulator/CA) officials
- Input into development of guidance on new UK law – commented on advisory notes
- Penny (until 2016), Barney (from 2016) member of the Animals in Science Committee (ASC) statutory advisory body
- Barney is member of Laboratory Animal Science Association council, Elliot is member of ETEs
- Members of various learned societies providing input on animal welfare issues

# The regulator

## BEING CHALLENGING



RSPCA news

[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

Office: 0300 123 0244/0288

Friday 24 April 2015

## More effort needed to end 'severe' suffering of lab animals, urges RSPCA

*80,000 lab animals experience severe pain, suffering or distress in the UK*

Today (24 April) is World Day for Laboratory Animals and the RSPCA is calling for everyone involved in the regulation and use of animals in research to make ending 'severe' suffering a top priority - and do much more towards achieving it.



# The regulator

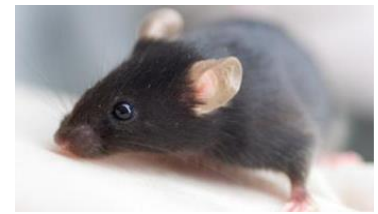
## BEING COLLABORATIVE

## Working to reduce the use of animals in scientific research



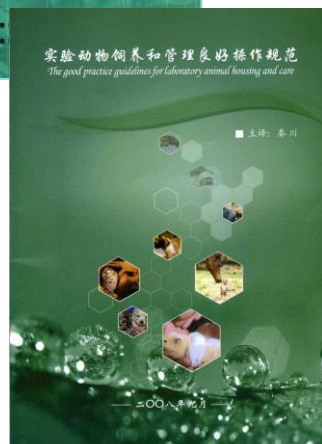
Title/lead organisation(s)	Actions (underway or proposed)	Measures of success and key milestones	Timelines
1.5 Refinement of models (RSPCA with HO)	Work to refine the most severe models to avoid or reduce animal suffering. Models to be considered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Experimental Autoimmune Encephalomyelitis (EAE);</li><li>- Seizures;</li><li>- Rheumatoid arthritis; and</li><li>- Sepsis.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reports on each of the selected topics prepared and published.</li><li>- Recommendations promulgated.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) EAE report published late 2012.</li><li>ii) Seizures report published 2013.</li><li>iii) Rheumatoid arthritis report to be published early 2014.</li><li>iv) Sepsis models report to be published Spring 2014.</li><li>v) Inspectors report active implementation by licence applicants.</li></ul>

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- **Represent the EU animal welfare sector** in *EC Expert Working Groups* set up to **establish important guidance** for how all 28 Member States implement the new EU Directive (*ongoing*).
- Delivered **+15 major training events** for **government officials**, members of **animal ethics committees**, **scientists** and **animal care staff** in countries such as Bulgaria, Croatia, China and Taiwan.
- Produced **translated versions of key information** for **reducing the impact of experiments**, and on **improving animal welfare**.



## 实验动物福利操作技术规范网站

### Procedures With Care

给药技术    无菌技术    英文版
您是第3210位访客

搜索

欢迎来到实验动物福利操作技术规范网站。本网站提供一系列的技术资料供研究人员学习实验动物研究中常用的最佳操作技术方法。主要涉及使用最多的实验动物小鼠和大鼠。未来本网站还会增加其他有关小鼠和大鼠的操作技术和其他实验动物的技术资料。

本网站中的技术资料是由英国纽卡斯尔大学（Newcastle University）编写，同时动物技术研究所（the Institute of Animal Technology）和英国实验动物3R研究中心（NC3R）提供支持。

本网站视频可以下载，但要遵从“使用条款”中的规定，不得用于商业用途。如果视频不能正常播放，请加载Flash插件。网页中的视频链接不能下载时，请点击“英文对照”，去对应的英文网站下载。请您把对本网站的意见和建议反馈给我们（infor@cnilas.org），以便于我们改进工作。

#### ■ 给药技术

本网站包括一系列技术指南供研究人员学习实验动物给药技术。

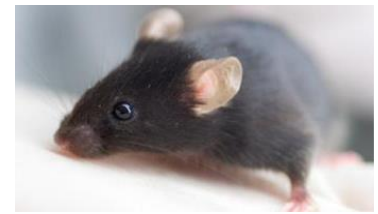
#### ■ 啮齿类外科无菌技术

这是一份全面的帮助研究人员使用最佳操作方法开展实验啮齿类动物的手术无菌技术的指南。





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- Promoting animal welfare in tertiary education



- Input into UK Concordat on Openness on Animal Research – over 50 organisations have signed up
- RSPCA concerns relating to underplaying harms to animals and overstating benefits
- We provided impartial expert advice for a series of 4 public dialogue events

Ipsos MORI  
Social Research Institute

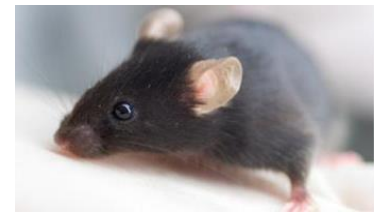
## Openness in Animal Research

The public's views on openness and transparency in animal research

4 November 2013



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- Approach Doctoral & Graduate Schools to ascertain current provision
- Engage with Institutions to embed animal welfare, ethics & 3Rs in graduate programmes
- Develop & disseminate teaching materials
- Measure outcomes



Describe your project in 3 sentences What are the benefits to society? What are the harms to the animals?

## Pilot course: Animal Research: Critical, Challenging & Creative Thinking

Ethical dilemma case studies: What would you do?

12 hours

2 days

25 students

1<sup>st</sup> yr PhD

1. Animal use, 3Rs, alternatives, spectrum of opinion & ethics, openness & transparency, public opinion & engagement

2. Research integrity, challenges facing science community, quality of published research & ethical dilemmas

3. The importance of experimental design & how to avoid common pitfalls. Refinement & reduction in practice

4. animal welfare, importance of identifying & minimising harms; welfare indicators & welfare assessment in practice.

Group evaluation of two recent papers in animal research - do they adhere to publication guidelines? Are there ethical concerns?

Doctoral Skills Development Programme

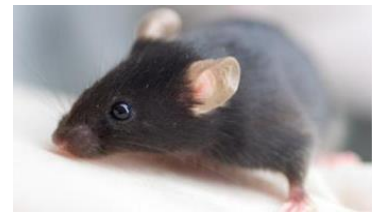


Animal Research:  
Critical, Challenging &  
Creative Thinking

UCL

Welfare assessment pub quiz with prizes!

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# Refinement

## Joint Working Group On Refinement

### Joint Working Group on Refinement



The UK Joint Working Group on Refinement (JWGR) is an initiative established by four organisations: the [British Veterinary Association - Animal Welfare Foundation](#), the [Fund for the Replacement of Animals in Medical Experiments](#), the RSPCA and the [Universities Federation for Animal Welfare](#). The RSPCA co-ordinates the Group and provides the secretariat.

The JWGR organises working groups with experts from industry, academia and animal welfare to prepare reports on a variety of specific topics. They set out recommendations for good practice and define practical ways of reducing suffering associated with husbandry and procedures.

These reports are usually published in the UK journal [Laboratory Animals](#). Examples include:



# Refinement

## Joint Working Group On Refinement 1993-2011

### Working Party Report

A guide to defining and implementing protocols for the welfare assessment of laboratory animals: eleventh report of the BVAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement\*

P Hawkins (Editor)<sup>1</sup>, D B Morton (Chair)<sup>2</sup>, O Burman<sup>3</sup>, N Dennison<sup>4</sup>, P Honess<sup>5</sup>, M Jennings<sup>1</sup>, S Lane<sup>6</sup>, V Middleton<sup>7</sup>, J V Roughan<sup>8</sup>, S Wells<sup>9</sup> and K Westwood<sup>10</sup>



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Biologicals

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/biologicals](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/biologicals)



Working Group Report

Application of the Three Rs to challenge assays used in vaccine testing: Tenth report of the BVAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement\*

Maggy Jennings<sup>a,\*</sup>, David B. Morton<sup>b</sup>, Emmanuelle Charton<sup>c</sup>, Jane Cooper<sup>d</sup>, Coenraad Hendriksen<sup>d</sup>, Stella Martin<sup>e</sup>, Michael C. Pearce<sup>f</sup>, Scott Price<sup>g</sup>, Keith Redhead<sup>e</sup>, Nick Reed<sup>h</sup>, Hugh Simmons<sup>h</sup>, Stephen Spencer<sup>e</sup>, Hilary Willingale<sup>i</sup>

Joint Refinement Working Party: M. Jennings<sup>a</sup>, P. F. Brain, A. Dick, H. Elliott, R. J. Francis, J. Hurst, D. B. Morton\*, A. G. Peters, R. Raymond, J. van & C. West

### Refinements in husbandry, care and common procedures for non-human primates

Ninth report of the BVAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement  
M Jennings and M J Prescott (Joint Editors)

### Guidelines for the administration of

### Refining dog husbandry and care

Eighth report of the BVAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group on Refinement

Members of the Joint Working Group on Refinement

BVAWF/FRAME/RSPCA/UFAW Joint Working Group

Working Group on Refinement: D. B. Morton (Chair), A. Buckwell, R. Ewbank, C. Godfrey, J. Hurst, C. Page, I. Sharman, R. Verschoyle, L. Westall



<http://science.rspca.org.uk/sciencegroup/researchanimals/implementing3rs/refinement>



# Refinement

## AGGREGATION OF MARGINAL GAINS?



- Single large change
  - Boardman bike
  - Robo-athlete
  - Add a motor!
- Series of small changes
  - Better front forks
  - More aerodynamic wheels
  - More aerodynamic helmets
  - Heat pads to warm muscles between races
  - Better suit design
  - Better physiotherapy
  - Psychological support

# Refinement

## AGGREGATION OF MARGINAL GAINS?

- Single large change
  - Replace all procedures with alternatives
  - Choose not to perform the experiment
- Series of small changes
  - Improve housing and care
  - Improve welfare assessment
  - Implementation of humane endpoints
  - Rigorous ethical review
  - Better experimental design



End Suffering



Suffering reduced,  
can be applied  
broadly

# Goal: to **end** severe suffering



- Convincing the scientific community that ending severe suffering is both desirable and achievable
- Multiple work streams
  - Producing guidance to promote and facilitate ending severe suffering
  - Challenging necessity and justification
  - Forming expert working groups to refine procedures and models

**Challenge  
people to  
think  
differently!**

## Comment

### A 'Road Map' Toward Ending Severe Suffering of Animals Used in Research and Testing

Elliot Lilley, Penny Hawkins and Maggy Jennings

*Ending severe suffering is a desirable goal for both ethical and scientific reasons. The RSPCA has pledged to work toward the end of such suffering for laboratory animals, and in this article we outline a practical approach that establishments can follow to achieve this aim*

#### Introduction

The introduction of EU Directive 2010/63/EU<sup>1</sup> controlling experiments on animals, and the associated updating of the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASP),<sup>2</sup> have focused attention on the need to reduce animal suffering in scientific procedures. Classification of levels of suffering into mild, moderate and severe, and the need to report actual levels of severity, have provided added impetus to the drive to refine the most severe models and procedures, and have resulted in greater recognition that high levels of suffering impact on an animal's physiological responses, increasing the variability of experimental data. So, ending severe suffering is a desirable goal for scientific reasons, as well as ethical and legal ones.

There are currently no data on the proportion of the approximately four million procedures carried out on animals in 2013 in the UK that caused severe suffering — or indeed, for any previous year. This will change from 2014, because the EU Directive and the ASP will require research establishments to assess and report the actual level of suffering experienced by individual animals undergoing regulated procedures. This is good news for three reasons. Firstly, it will give the public a clear indication of the levels of suffering that laboratory animals experience, which will be an important step toward open and honest reporting of animal use in research. Secondly, it will give establishments an opportunity to evaluate how successful their refinement programmes are in reducing suffering, and highlight areas where more work is needed. Finally, these new data will allow regulators, welfare organisations and research funding bodies to focus resources on areas of research where suffering is the most severe and/or refinement is lacking, and to track progress

of Three Rs-related programmes targeted at reducing suffering.

Clearly, the responsibility to end severe suffering falls on the whole scientific community, who need to accept this as a worthwhile goal and commit to achieving it. There needs to be a coordinated effort from researchers, industry and academia, regulatory authorities, funding bodies and scientific journals. But animal welfare organisations also have a key role, and even before revision of the ASP, the RSPCA had pledged to work toward ending severe suffering. Since 2011, the Society has been developing a programme of work with the scientific community, aimed at producing innovative, challenging and feasible approaches to the achievement of this goal. This article focuses on the role of research establishments, and outlines some practical steps that can be taken to create a 'road map' to end severe suffering.

#### Stages on the Road

There are two complementary aspects to the 'road map' approach (Figure 1):

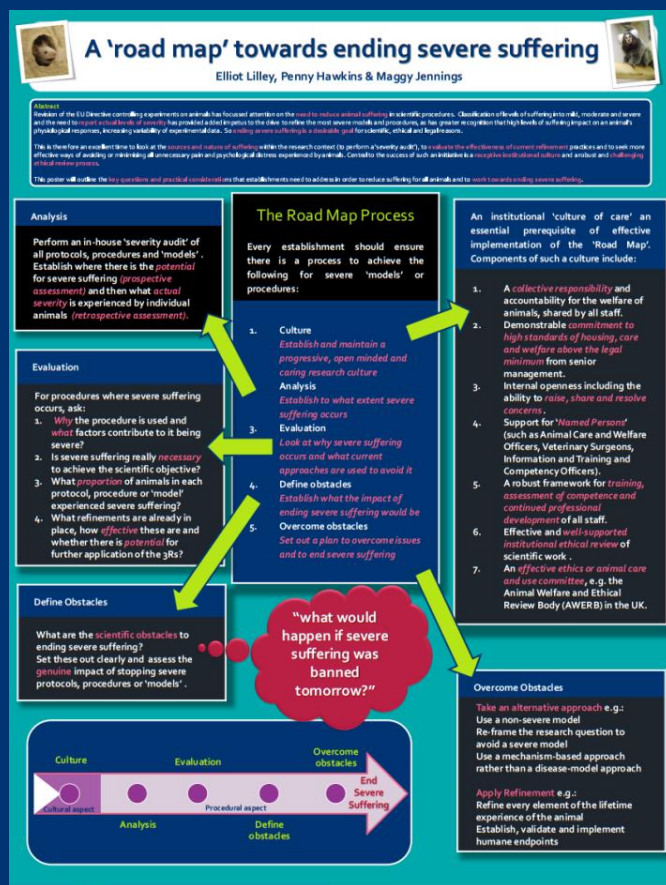
1. The cultural aspect — developing an environment that will support and encourage positive attitudes toward change; and
2. The procedural aspect — developing the activities and initiatives that will end severe suffering.

#### The cultural aspect — establishing the culture of care

Fundamental to ending severe suffering is the belief that this is both desirable and possible —

# Road map

## RESOURCES



research.animals@rspca.org.uk  
Research Animals Department, Science Group, RSPCA, Wilberforce Way,  
Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9RS



# Website

## RESOURCES



## Focus on severe suffering

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Share this page



## Focus on severe suffering

Welcome to the RSPCA/LASA/LAVA/IAT Severe Suffering web resource.



Institute of  
Animal Technology

These web pages provide information and resources that will help you to avoid severe suffering. All of the material can be used by anyone involved with the use of animals in research, but you may wish to follow one of the three different routes for (1) researchers, (2) animal technologists or veterinarians and (3) members of ethics or animal care and use committees, such as Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Bodies (AWERBs) in the UK and Animal Welfare Bodies (AWBs) in the rest of the European Union.

The RSPCA is a scientific animal welfare organisation that works to progress the **3Rs** and encourage effective **ethical review** of research and testing using animals. We have partnered with LASA, LAVA and IAT to create this resource as part of our ongoing **work with respect to animal use**, which has a special focus on severe suffering. With a positive approach and good communication, much can be done to reduce suffering – and animal welfare and science will both benefit.

This is the first version of this resource and we will be adding much more. The content has been reviewed by a diverse panel of individuals from industry, academia, regulatory authorities, learned societies and organisations. The authors of this material are indebted to these reviewers for their contributions. Please visit regularly and send us your feedback at [research.animals@rspca.org.uk](mailto:research.animals@rspca.org.uk)

### Why focus on severe suffering?: Scientists



Specific information for research staff on the need to reduce severe suffering. >>

### Why focus on severe suffering?: Animal technologists and vets



Specific information for animal technologists and vets on the need to reduce severe suffering. >>

### Why focus on severe suffering?: AWERB members



Specific information for members of AWERBs or AWBs on the need to reduce severe suffering. >>

### Focus on severe suffering

Scientists	V
Animal technologists and veterinarians	V
AWERB members	V
Resources	V

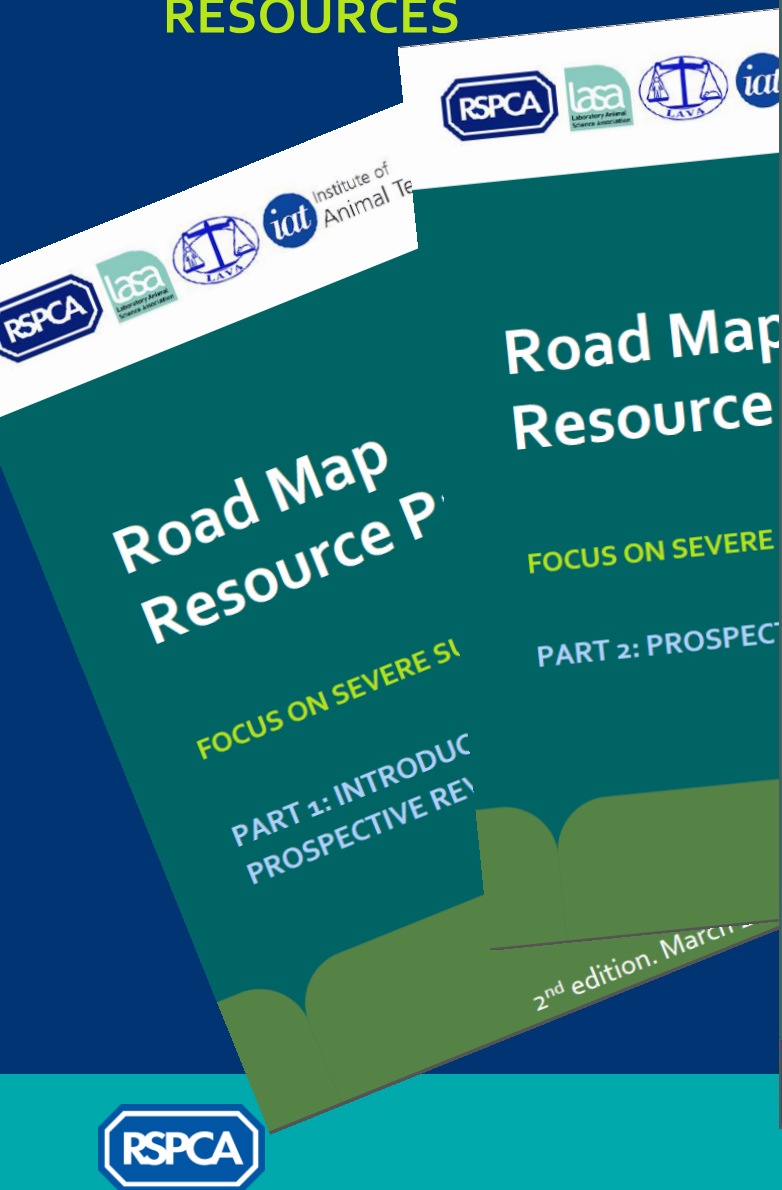


[www.rspca.org.uk/severesuffering](http://www.rspca.org.uk/severesuffering)



# Road Map

## RESOURCES





### Progress towards ending severe suffering working together to achieve positive change



Elliot Lilley, Barney Reed & Penny Hawkins

All laboratory animal suffering is a concern, but the RSPCA believes that **ending severe suffering** should be a **top priority**. There are a number of reasons to do this: (i) the **ethical benefit** of reducing suffering, (ii) the **legal requirement** to minimise suffering set out in Directive 2010/63 EU and (iii) the **scientific benefits** – good science goes hand in hand with good welfare.

We have initiated a number of parallel activities including:

- A **'Road Map'** towards ending severe suffering, outlining the generic key questions and practical considerations that establishments can address to reduce suffering for all animals and work towards ending severe suffering.
- A comprehensive **web resource** for the research community, providing guidance and resources to help end severe suffering.
- A series of **'Expert Working Groups'** of scientists, vets, animal technologists, animal welfare experts and representatives from the UK regulatory authority. We have produced four reports on reducing suffering in epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, sepsis and rheumatoid arthritis research. A report on spinal cord injury is in progress.

#### Resources



[www.rspca.org.uk/severesuffering](http://www.rspca.org.uk/severesuffering)

#### Road Map



#### Working towards ending severe suffering

Three work streams:

1. The 'Road Map'
2. Developing online resources
3. Expert Working Groups

#### Expert Working Groups



Seizures, convulsions and epilepsy



EAE



Sepsis



Rheumatoid arthritis




#### Working with....

**Individuals**  
Researchers, Animal technologists, Veterinarians, 'Named persons'

**You?**  
If you think you may be able to help us to tackle severe suffering, get in touch.

#### Organisations

UK Home Office, LASA, IAT, JAVAs

research.animals@rspca.org.uk @RSPCA\_LabAnimal

Research Animals Department, Science Group, RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, West Sussex, RH13 9RS

# EWG approach



## WORKING WITH THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

- RSPCA chaired and convened groups
  - Researchers (academic, industry & CRO)
  - Animal technologists
  - Veterinarians
  - Regulator (UK Home Office – ASRU)
- Establish **why** severe suffering occurs and set out **practical** solutions



# EWG publications

## RESOURCES



Journal of Pharmacological and Toxicological Methods 67 (2013) 9–15



Contents lists available at SciVerse ScienceDirect

Journal of Pharmacological and Toxicological Methods

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jpharmtox](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jpharmtox)



Appraisal of state-of-the-art

Reducing suffering in animal models and procedures involving seizures, convulsions and epilepsy

Sarah Wolfensohn<sup>a</sup>, Penny Hawkins<sup>b</sup>, Elliot Lilley<sup>b,\*</sup>, Daniel Anthony<sup>c</sup>, Charles Chambers<sup>d</sup>, Sarah Lane<sup>e</sup>, Martin Lawton<sup>f</sup>, Sally Robinson<sup>g</sup>, Hanna-Marja Voipio<sup>h</sup>, Gavin Woodhall<sup>i</sup>

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Appraisal of state-of-the-art

Reducing suffering in experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE)

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### REFINEMENT OF ANIMAL MODELS OF SEPSIS AND SEPTIC SHOCK

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Inflammopharmacology

REVIEW



### Applying refinement to the use of mice and rats in rheumatoid arthritis research

Penny Hawkins<sup>1</sup>, Rachel Armstrong<sup>2</sup>, Tania Boden<sup>3</sup>, Paul Garside<sup>4</sup>, Katherine Knight<sup>5</sup>, Elliot Lilley<sup>1</sup>, Michael Seed<sup>6</sup>, Michael Wilkinson<sup>7</sup>, Richard O. Williams<sup>8</sup>

UK HO using sepsis report for first thematic review of sepsis research in the UK



# Expert working groups

## Future groups

### Spinal cord injury

Pancreatitis

Tamoxifen

Bone marrow irradiation

*Death as an endpoint*

## RSPCA/UFAW Rodent Welfare Group

Working to improve the welfare of laboratory rodents is extremely important because the vast majority of animals used in research and testing are mice and rats.

The RSPCA/UFAW Rodent Welfare Group provides a forum for scientists, animal technologists and veterinarians to exchange ideas on implementing the standards within rodent care and use.

A key aim of the Group is to encourage people to take account of the whole lifetime experience of laboratory animals, which has been reviewed and refined.

### Annual meetings

The Group holds annual meetings with presentations and interactive sessions, which often address specific themes. Previous topics have included rat welfare, wild rodent care, rodent welfare assessment and welfare issues associated with Individually Ventilated Cages (IVCs).

### Reports of past meetings

The research animals department also produces the meeting reports (see below), which are available to those using and caring for rodents worldwide.

## Farm animals in research

Significant numbers of agricultural animals are used in experiments, for example in the research and development of vaccines against diseases such as bovine tuberculosis. They are also used in human medical and veterinary research, and in studies aiming to improve their productivity or to better understand their behaviour and welfare.

A **workshop** on the care and use of agricultural animals in research, held by the Norwegian Consensus Platform on Alternatives (Norecopa) in 2012, recommended that there should be more discussion forums and meetings on the 3Rs for all those involved in the care and use of these species.

The RSPCA and **APHA\*** (formerly AHVLA) have taken this forward by holding two meetings on the Welfare of Agricultural Animals in Research, in June 2013 and September 2014.

### Sharing ideas on welfare and the 3Rs



**Welfare of  
agricultural  
animals in  
research**



established 2013



Meeting topics have included presentations on emotions in farm animals, clicker training for pigs, achieving good welfare standards for animals in vaccine research, reducing suffering in avian influenza research, replacing farm animals in education, and assessing and alleviating suffering. The meetings also included poster sessions and plenty of opportunities to make new contacts and to share ideas about welfare and the 3Rs.

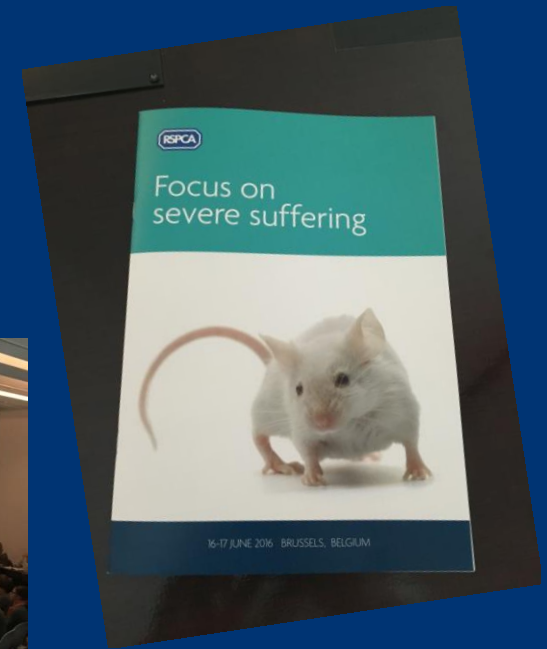
Both meetings were attended by over 80 delegates, including animal technologists, researchers, veterinarians and students, from a wide range of establishments within

the UK and overseas. Reports of both meetings, including action points, have been published in the journal *Animal Technology and Welfare* (and are freely available for download below).



# International meeting

## Focus on severe suffering

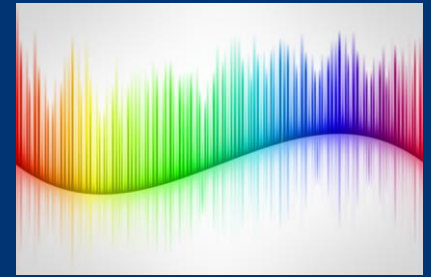


150 delegates from 24 countries



# Summary

## CHANGE REQUIRES A VARIETY OF APPROACHES



- A spectrum of animal welfare activity is important
- Liaison with the scientific community and being 'challenging from within' is a critical part of the spectrum
- Animal welfare organisations play an important role in securing change for animals
- We've achieved a lot BUT there is still much to do.....

# Thank you

