

## Your ASC AWERB Subgroup



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Dear colleague,

Welcome to the third AWERB Hubs network newsletter from the Animals in Science Committee (ASC). In this edition we provide additional links to useful resources and materials and introduce the AWERB Knowledge Hub Group, an interactive online communication platform designed specifically for AWERBs.

### The ASC wants to hear from you!

You may not be aware that the work of the ASC is varied and dynamic. Did you know that the ASC responded to the previous Research Excellence Framework Consultation resulting in the establishment of animal research as a topic of assessment where it was not being considered? The ASC endeavours to promote the importance of the welfare of animal used in research and its ethics.

We would like to invite AWERBs to consider how **you** as a member of the animal welfare ethical review community, can better inform the ASC so that we can do more for you? Please send your suggestions to the ASC secretariat: ([asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)).

Your responses will feed into the ASC work programme and may be used in a forthcoming presentation at this year's annual LASA conference.

### 2018 ASC Road Shows

The ASC is excited to announce that it will be hosting two AWERB Road Shows this autumn. The road shows will cover a variety of subject matters, including tips on improving non-technical summaries, how AWERBs incorporate ethics, introducing the launch of the AWERB 'Knowledge Hub' (for more details on this, see [page 2](#)). The road show will also address an AWERB's role in ensuring that methodology implements refinement to the full, as well as advice to AWERBs on how to prevent breeding of surplus animals.

### Recent tips for writing Non-technical Summaries

The latest guide from UAR for writing Non-technical summaries is now available – see 'Useful links'. The guide was created to help applicants with writing NTSs. The guide explains the purpose of the NTS and the common mistakes when writing one.

### Useful links

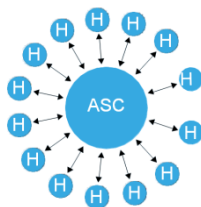
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[RSPCA-LASA Guiding principals on good practice](#)

[2018 Hub Workshop Report](#)

[LASA Annual Conference](#)

[Guide to writing Non-technical Summaries](#)



## Introducing the AWERB Knowledge Hub Group

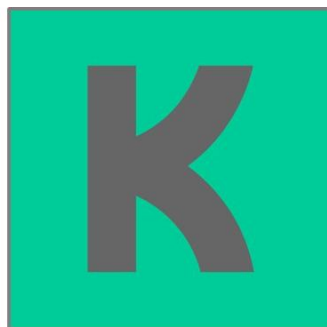
At the AWERB 2018 ASC and AWERB Hub chairs workshop, it was made clear that there is a need for AWERBs to be able to share information and communicate with each other. Due to the need to maintain the privacy of AWERBs across the UK, this has been difficult to facilitate.

A great idea was suggested, which was to have an online platform for all AWERBs where they would be able to discuss their ways of working, ask questions and put forward ideas.

As a result, a virtual community has been created, which allows all AWERB members from across the UK to 'talk' to each other and enables them to share ideas, collaborate on work and promote the diffusion of best practice for use of animals in science.

Topics currently up for discussion on the AWERB Knowledge Hub Group include, but are not limited to: working with animals abroad, implementing the 3R's, ethics and the function of AWERBs.

If you are an AWERB member and interested in becoming a member of the AWERB Knowledge Hub Group, please contact the ASC Secretariat on ([asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk)). The group is set to be officially launched in the autumn.



Knowledgehub

The group offers a variety of facilities, available to all AWERBs, these include:

1. An online Forum, where members can ask questions, discuss ideas, share learning and provide solutions.
2. A Library, where AWERBs can upload and share documents to bring expert guidance and resources together.
3. An Events page where members can promote forthcoming events.
4. A Wiki page for AWERBs to share knowledge and collaborate on wiki (editable web) pages.
5. An Ideas page, where members can share ideas with the group. Members may vote for their favourite ideas.

### Useful links

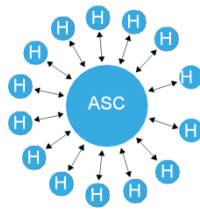
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[NCR3s Events](#)

[EU Guidance Documents](#)

[RSPCA Events](#)

[AWERB network leaflet](#)



## Recent ASC Publications

A number of publications have been published since the last Hub Newsletter in April 2018, including:

1. Summaries of the work streams to be taken forward by the ASC task and finish groups between 2018-2019.
2. The AWERB Hub Network Leaflet.
3. The fourth ASC and AWERB Hubs workshop report was published, summarising the discussions and themes of the workshop.
4. Following on from the Harm Benefit Analysis review, the key recommendations to be referred to ASRU were published



## Events

### [AWERB Road Show](#)

The ASC will be holding two AWERB Road Shows in Autumn. All AWERB members are invited to attend this event, which will promote useful discussion on ethics, NTS, dealing with surplus animals and more.

### [RSPCA/UFAW 25th Rodent and Rabbit Welfare Meeting](#)

This year's RSPCA/UFAW Rodent and Rabbit Welfare Meeting will be held in central London on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Please note that the closing date for registration is Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

## Useful links

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[RSPCA-LASA Guidance on developing introduction material for AWERBs](#)

[RSPCA-LASA-LAVA-IAT Guidance on delivering effective ethical review](#)

[Implementation of the Directive 2010/63/EU \(2014\)](#)

[NC3Rs - New checklists for consideration of work using living animals conducted overseas](#)