



# AWERB Hub Workshop

15 October 2025  
13:00–16:00

*Welcome — we will be starting shortly!*

# Agenda

| Time                 | Topic   | Presenter(s)                      |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>13:00 – 13:10</b> | Welcome, Introductions and Workshop Protocol  | ASC                               |
| <b>13:10 – 13:30</b> | Update on the work of the Animals in Science Committee                                | ASC                               |
| <b>13:30 – 13:50</b> | Requirements, benefits, and barriers to rehoming                                      | Bristol Veterinary School         |
| <b>13:50 – 14:10</b> | Case study: rehoming of feral ponies  | Agenda Life Sciences              |
| <b>14:10 – 14:30</b> | Setting up & successfully running a re-homing program as part of your Culture of Care | University of Strathclyde         |
| <b>14:30 – 14:40</b> | Break   |                                   |
| <b>14:40 – 15:00</b> | Case study: New Zealand partnership programme with animal welfare groups              | University of Auckland            |
| <b>15:00 – 15:15</b> | Case study: US rehoming scheme - Homes for Animal Heroes                              | National Animal Interest Alliance |
| <b>15:15 – 15:55</b> | Breakout rooms and feedback   |                                   |
| <b>15:55 – 16:00</b> | Final thoughts and feedback   | Caroline Chadwick                 |

# Workshop Protocols



Remain on mute when not speaking



Ask questions during dedicated Q&A time by raising your hand or using the chat function



Attendees are welcome to use chat and reaction functions



Audience contributions will be recorded for writing the workshop report – this does not apply to breakout rooms



In breakout rooms, please use hands-up feature and briefly introduce yourself before speaking



Some attendees may have problems using MS Teams functionality due to organisational policies.  
Please email [asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk) for any technical issues

# Polling and Q&A

[www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com)

Joining as a participant?

# 1687460



- You can access Slido on your phone or Desktop to vote in polls and submit anonymous questions. No download required.
- Please still feel free to raise your hand in MS teams or use the chat function during the dedicated Q&A sections to ask questions.

# Poll



## What is your role within your AWERB? (select all that apply)

Chair

NTCO

Secretary

NPRC

PIL holder

NIO

PPL holder

HOLC

NVS

Lay member

NACWO

Statistician

Other (tell us in the chat!)

[www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com)

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# Poll



How long have you been an AWERB member?

1

< 6 months

2

6 months–1 year

3

1–2 years

4

2–5 years

5

5–10 years

6

10+ years

[www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com)

# 1687460



The **A S C**  
Animals in Science Committee

# Update on the work of the Animals in Science Committee

# ASC Chair appointment



**Dr Sally Robinson**

*Term started: 1 June 2025*

Dr Robinson has a breadth of experience in relation to animal research through roles predominantly within the pharmaceutical industry but more recently in academia.

She has over 20 years of experience of implementation of the 3Rs at local and international level, and promotion of a Culture of Care and governance through AWERBs with over 30 publications on these topics.

## Latest from the Animals in Science Committee

### [Non-technical summaries and retrospective assessments](#)

7 October 2025    Research and analysis

### [Non-human primates bred for use in scientific purposes: response from Lord Hanson](#)

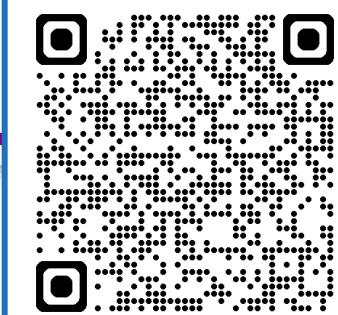
15 September 2025    Correspondence

### [Non-human primates bred for use in scientific purposes](#)

15 September 2025    Collection

[See all latest documents](#)

 [Get emails](#)



# ASC Member Recruitment: Now Live

**The Animals in Science Committee is now recruiting for five new Members**

- We are welcoming both lay and expert members with expertise in one or more of the following:
  - *in-vivo* science,
  - non-human primates,
  - *in-silico* science and/or artificial intelligence,
  - pharmaceutical industry and/or contract research organisations,
  - animal welfare and protection,
  - science communication, regulation, law, humanities and other lay subjects.
- Successful candidates will begin their terms on 1 April 2026. The closing date for applications is **11pm on Monday 3 November**.

[Appointment details – Animals in Science Committee Members – Apply for a public appointment – GOV.UK](#)



# ASC AWERB Hub workshop report for April 2025

 GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Business and industry](#) > [Science and innovation](#) > [Animal research and testing](#)

Corporate report

## **ASC and AWERB Hub workshop report: April 2025**

Report for the Animal Welfare Ethical Review Body (AWERB) subgroup of the Animals in Science Committee's (ASC) 12th workshop on 2 April 2025.

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From: [Animals in Science Committee](#)  
Published 3 July 2025

[ASC and AWERB Hub workshop report: April 2025 - GOV.UK](#)



# Non-Technical Summaries and Retrospective Assessments

 GOV.UK

[Home](#) > [Business and industry](#) > [Science and innovation](#) > [Animal research and testing](#)

Research and analysis

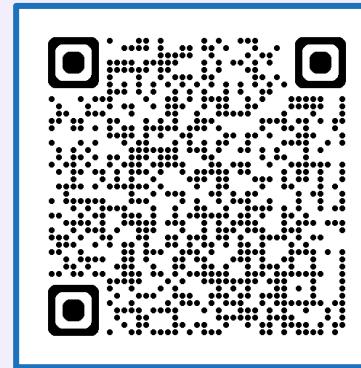
## Non-technical summaries and retrospective assessments

Animals in Science Committee response to a ministerial commission for advice.

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From: [Animals in Science Committee](#)  
Published 7 October 2025

[Non-technical summaries and retrospective assessments - GOV.UK](#)



# Non-Technical Summaries and Retrospective Assessments

## Purpose and Method

- Commissioned by the Home Office to improve transparency and 3Rs under ASPA.
- Evaluated NTSs and RAs against legal and best practice criteria.
- Informed by stakeholder feedback (sector & non-sector).

## Key findings

- NTSs often overly technical, vague, or lacking detail.
- RAs inconsistent in quality, with delays in publication.
- Poor articulation of cumulative harms, procedures, and 3Rs.
- Limited public accessibility and usability of published documents.



## Recommendations for AWERBs

- Lay Review: Ensure lay members review NTSs and RAs for clarity.
- Training: Support applicants with training on readability and 3Rs.
- End-of-PPL Reviews: Encourage reflective practice and sharing of lessons learned.
- Transparency: Consider self-publishing NTSs and RAs on your own websites where appropriate

## Other suggested improvements

- Clearer guidance documents and annotated examples.
- No word limit emphasised; encourage detailed, readable summaries.
- Improvements to current publishing systems, followed by facilitation of a searchable database for NTSs and RAs.
- Enhanced ASPeL form usability and guidance integration.

# Responses to published advice

## [Licence analysis review: response from the Home Office](#)

The Home Office has responded to the Animals in Science Committee's licence analysis review.



## [Non-human primates bred for use in scientific purposes: response from Lord Hanson](#)

Lord Hanson has responded to the Animals in Science Committee's advice on non-human primates bred for use in scientific purposes.



# Severe Suffering Meeting, RSPCA

## 5th UK Focus on Severe Suffering Meeting

*5 November 2025,  
Central London,  
Free to attend*

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*This year's topic will be 'Avoiding mortality' and will include presentations by speakers from industry and academia. The meeting will comprise sessions on: Models of animal diseases, Models of human diseases, Use of technology to predict mortality, and Looking to the future.*

**Register here:**  
[5th UK Focus on Severe Suffering Meeting](#)



If you require any further information, please contact  
[animalsinscience@rspca.org.uk](mailto:animalsinscience@rspca.org.uk)

# Any Questions?



# AWERB Knowledge Hub

## What?

The AWERB Knowledge Hub – an online member-only resource which acts as a repository for documents and allows for communication between AWERB members.

## Who?

Anyone who is part of an AWERB can join the Knowledge Hub, and anyone who fulfils this criteria can post or comment.

## How?

To join the online community, all you need to do is sign the Code of Practice and return to the ASC Secretariat ([asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk)) with your AWERB Chair and/or Home Office Liaison Contact copied in.

# AWERB Knowledge Hub

Private group | Started - July 2017 | Last activity – Today | 77 members

Home

Discussion

Library

Events

## AWERB Hub Workshop (October 2025)

15 Oct 2025 - 13:00 - 16:00

The workshop theme will be "The Role of AWERBs in Successful Rehoming". Please review the posted event flyer for the agenda and presenter biographies. You can sign up via this link:... [see more](#)

## RSPCA UK Focus on Severe Suffering meeting

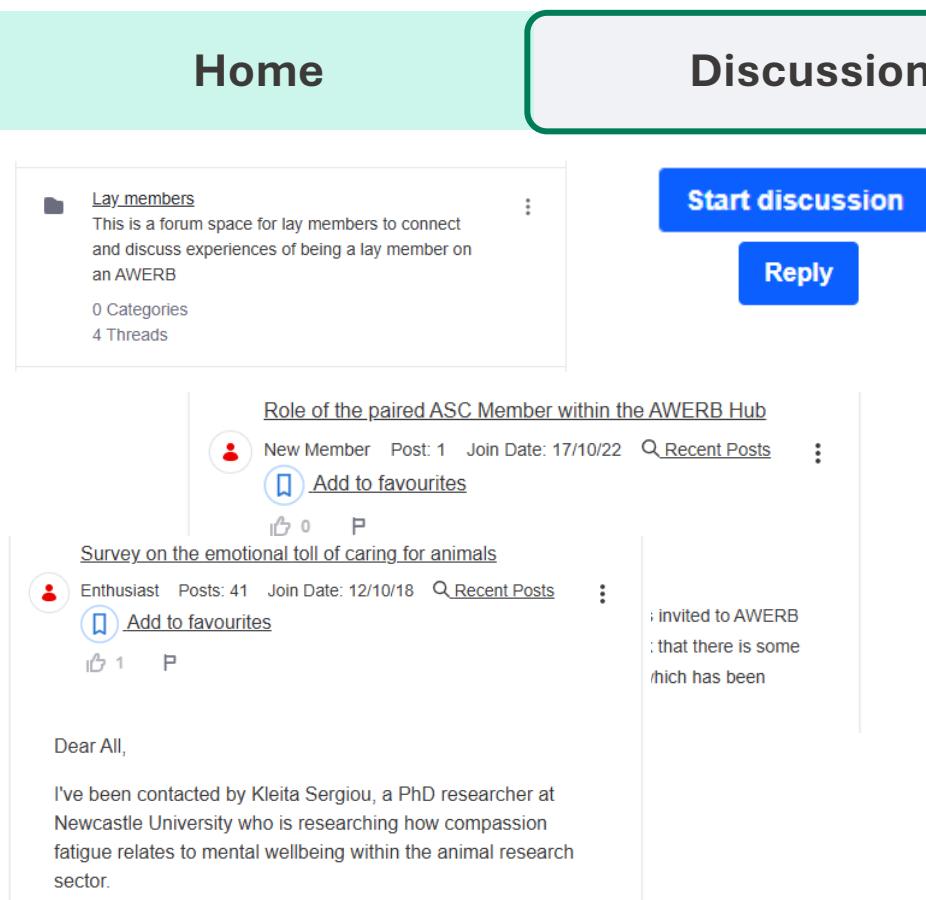
05 Nov 2025 - 09:00 - 15:30

The RSPCA invites you to the 5th UK Focus on Severe Suffering meeting that will take place on November 5th in London. This year's topic will be 'Avoiding mortality' and will include presentations... [see more](#)

- A simple, scrollable feed displaying the most recent posts.
- Easy-to-use “Comment” and “Like” features to encourage engagement.
- Polls and announcements can be added as needed to support collaboration.

# AWERB Knowledge Hub

Private group | Started - July 2017 | Last activity – Today | 77 members



The screenshot shows the 'Discussion' tab of the AWERB Knowledge Hub. On the left, there's a sidebar for 'Lay members' with a description and 0 categories/4 threads. Below it is a post from a 'New Member' about the role of paired ASC members. Another post from an 'Enthusiast' discusses the emotional toll of caring for animals. A survey link is also visible. On the right, a large callout box provides instructions for using the discussion board.

**Start discussion**

**Reply**

- A space to start discussion threads that are easy to engage with. Click on any thread and hit “**Reply**” to begin the conversation.
- Choose a category that best fits your topic, or simply click “**Start discussion**” to post in the main area if none of these apply.
- You’re welcome to post surveys, questions, requests, announcements, publications, or anything else you’d like to discuss that’s relevant to AWERBs.

# AWERB Knowledge Hub

Private group | Started - July 2017 | Last activity – Today | 77 members

Home      Discussion      **Library**      Events

| Title  | Document Type | Description   | Create Date  | Modified Date |
|--|---------------|---|--------------|---------------|
| FOLDERS  |               |   |              |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ASC AWERB Hub Workshops               | --            | Biannual workshops tailored to the evolving needs of AWERBs.                              | 4 Months Ago | 2 Months Ago  |
| <b>Add</b>   |               |   |              |               |
| FOLDERS  |               |   |              |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2023 April - ASC AWERB Hub Workshop   | --            | Materials from the ASC AWERB Hub Workshop, April 2023                                     |              |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2023 October - ASC AWERB Hub Workshop | --            | Materials from the ASC AWERB Hub Workshop,  |              |               |
| DOCUMENTS  |               |   |              |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2024 October - ASC AWERB Hub Workshop | --            | 1.0_AWERB Hub Workshop (April 2025) Full Showfile.pdf Basic Document                      |              |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2025 April - ASC AWERB Hub Workshop   | --            | 1.1_Updates from the ASC_Wendy Jarrett_AWERB Hub Workshop (April 2025).pdf Basic Document |              |               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archive                               | --            |   |              |               |

- A space to host files and share with other members of the AWERB network.
- Choose a folder that best fits your file, or simply click “Add” to post in the main area if none of these apply.
  - You’re welcome to post event information, publications, announcements, or anything else you’d like to discuss that’s relevant to AWERBs.

# AWERB Knowledge Hub

Private group | Started - July 2017 | Last activity – Today | 77 members

Home

Discussion

Library

Events

Add event

< >

today

October 2025

month week day list

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |

10:00 32nd R...

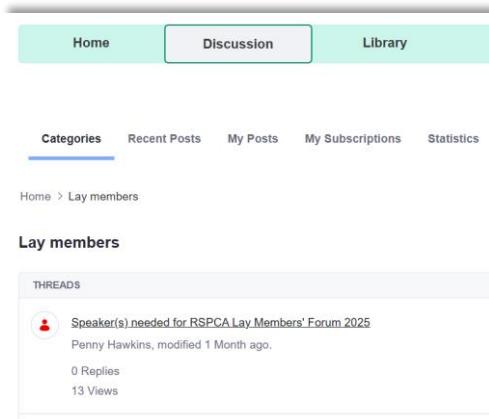
13:00 AWER...

- Stay up-to-date with ongoing AWERB events.
- Simple and intuitive registration tools.
- Everything displayed in one convenient calendar view.

# AWERB Knowledge Hub: a dedicated forum

*“Lay members need more support, such as symposia and centralised resources with perhaps a national resource to keep all relevant information in one place, to help them assess replacement effectively.”*

**AWERB Hub Workshop (April 2025)**



The screenshot shows a forum interface with a green header bar containing 'Home', 'Discussion' (which is highlighted in blue), and 'Library'. Below the header, there are navigation links for 'Categories', 'Recent Posts', 'My Posts', 'My Subscriptions', and 'Statistics'. The main content area shows a breadcrumb path 'Home > Lay members' and a section titled 'Lay members'. A thread titled 'Speaker(s) needed for RSPCA Lay Members' Forum 2025' by 'Penny Hawkins' is displayed, with 0 replies and 13 views.

## **Speaker(s) needed for RSPCA Lay Members' Forum 2025:**

- Speakers needed: five-minute case studies from lay members: two sharing positive experiences of how AWERB facilitated the trial of refinements, and another highlighting challenges encountered.*

*“A freely available AWERB/NIO forum dedicated to sharing information on replacement methods, including effective resources used by NIOs and AWERB members.”*

**AWERB Hub Workshop (April 2025)**



## **Revitalising our relevant publications for AWERBs:**

- Incorporating new approach methodologies in the development of new medicines: the NC3Rs, MHRA and ABPI convened a cross-sector workshop with experts from regulatory agencies, industry and academia.*

# We need you!

**The A S C**  
Animals in Science Committee

# AWERB Knowledge Hub: a dedicated forum

*“Lay members need more support, such as symposia and centralised resources, perhaps a national resource to keep information in one place, to help replacement effective.”*

## AWERB Hub Workshop (A)

Home Discussion Library

Categories Recent Posts My Posts My Subscriptions Statistics

# Speaker(s) RSPCA La 2025:

- *Speaker minute lay me positive how AW trial of refinements, and another highlighting challenges encountered.*

# Animals in Science Committee Secretariat

asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk



*“A freely available AWERB/NIO forum dedicated nation on replacement methods, tive resources used by NIOs and AWERB members.”*

## **IUB Workshop (April 2025)**

## **italising our relevant publications for ERBs:**

Incorporating new approach methodologies in the development of new medicines: the NC3Rs, MHRA and ABPI convened a cross-sector workshop with experts from regulatory agencies, industry and academia.

# We need you!

# The ASC

## Animals in Science Committee

# Poll



**What is your current situation regarding rehoming?**

1

We rehome

2

We are currently considering rehoming

3

We do not rehome

[www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com)

# 1687460



The **A S C**  
Animals in Science Committee

# Requirements, benefits and barriers to rehoming

# REQUIREMENTS, BENEFITS AND BARRIERS TO REHOMING

**Bristol Veterinary School**  
Animal Welfare & Behaviour research community

AWERB Hub workshop, October 15<sup>th</sup> 2025, online



Picture courtesy of  
anonymised re-homer



Bristol Veterinary School

Fundamental & applied studies of behaviour, cognition & emotion

Rehomed 250+ rats and ~30 mice following Home Office guidance over the past 10 years

‘The movement of a relevant protected animal from an establishment to any other place that is not another establishment under ASPA [Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act]’<sup>1</sup> P10



Home Office

**Advice Note: 03/2015  
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986**

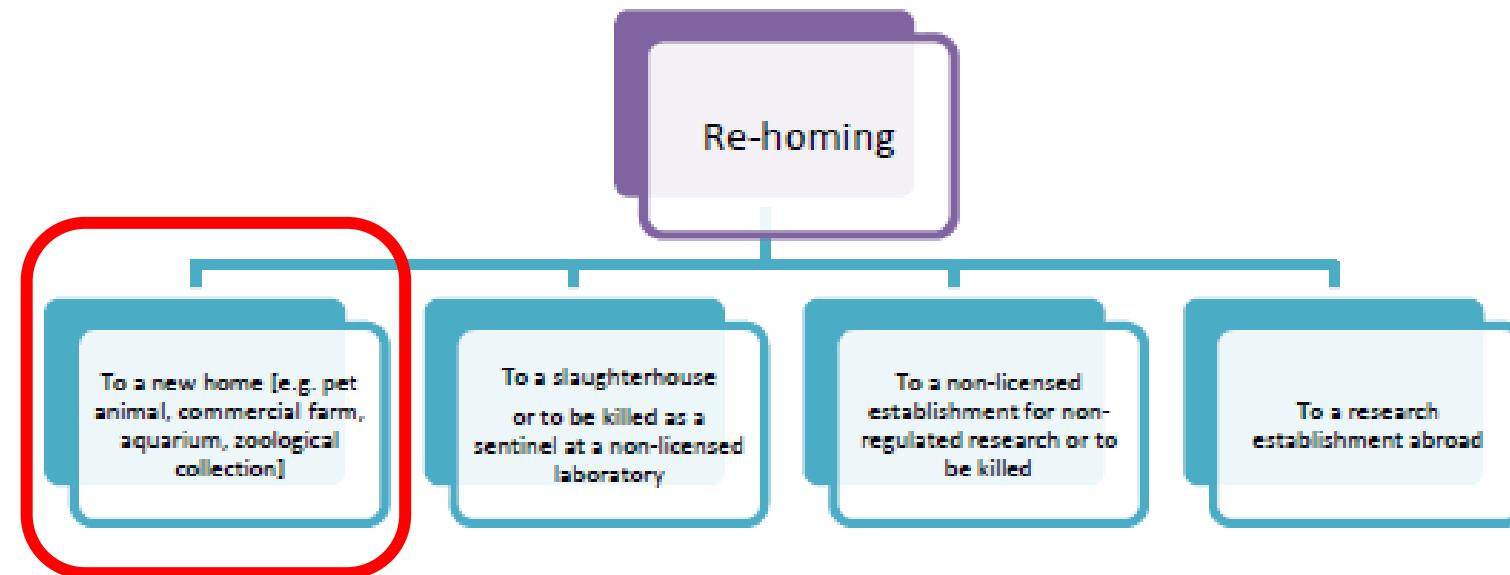
**Re-homing and setting free of animals**

**Animals in Science Regulation Unit**

**October 2015**

<sup>1</sup> Home Office 2015 Re-homing and setting free of animals, in Advice Note: 03/2015, Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

‘The movement of a relevant protected animal from an establishment to any other place that is not another establishment under ASPA [Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act]’<sup>1</sup> P10



The ASPA section 17A (3) requires <sup>1P3</sup>:

- a) that the animal's **state of health** allows it to be set free or re-homed
- b) that the animal poses **no danger to public health, animal health or the environment**
- c) that there is an adequate scheme in place for ensuring the **socialisation** of the animal
- d) that **appropriate measures** have been taken **to safeguard the animal's well-being** when re-homed or set free



## Expectation of future well-being of animals

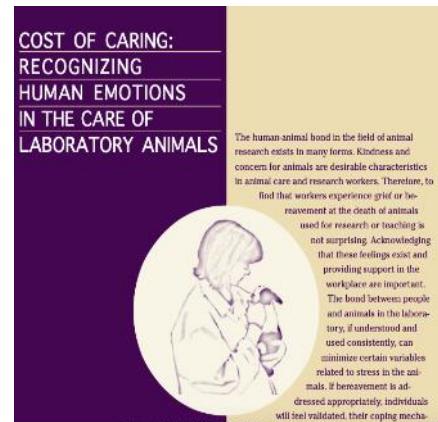
‘family member’

‘overwhelmingly adored’

‘like a child’



## Helps tackling compassion fatigue



‘... very positive for an establishment’s culture of care and the morale of scientists and care staff looking after the animals.’<sup>i</sup> P3



## Attracts positive public attention

→ 63% of 224 respondents willing to re-home

[→ But: lack of awareness (64%)]



Hannah Dixon  
Bsc Animal Behaviour and Welfare  
BIOL315, 2020/2021

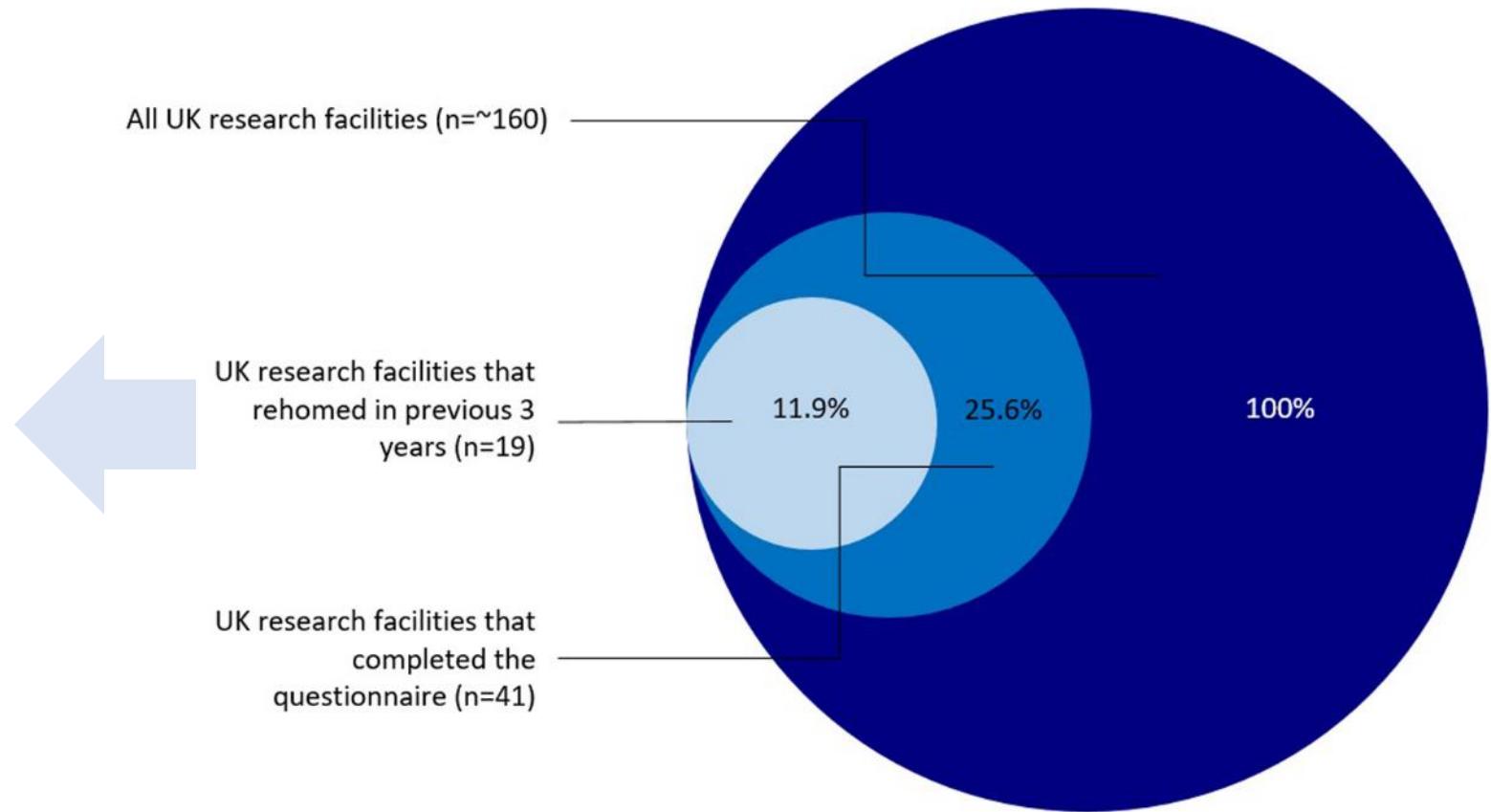
## RESEARCH ARTICLE

A semi-structured questionnaire survey of laboratory animal rehoming practice across 41 UK animal research facilities

Tess Skidmore \*, Emma Roe

School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Southampton, Southampton, England, United Kingdom

**2322 animals known to have been rehomed between 2015–2017**



## RESEARCH ARTICLE

A semi-structured questionnaire survey of laboratory animal rehoming practice across 41 UK animal research facilities

Tess Skidmore \*, Emma Roe

School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Southampton, Southampton, England, United Kingdom

Main reasons reported by 22 UK research facilities that completed the questionnaire that have NOT rehomed in the past 3 years

‘Reasons for not rehoming can thus be grouped into **welfare concerns with regard to the animal’s health if rehomed, practical issues surrounding demand** and the fact that research needs’ tend to leave few animals to retire, and **external challenges** including fear of negative media attention.’

## RESEARCH ARTICLE

## A semi-structured questionnaire survey of laboratory animal rehoming practice across 41 UK animal research facilities

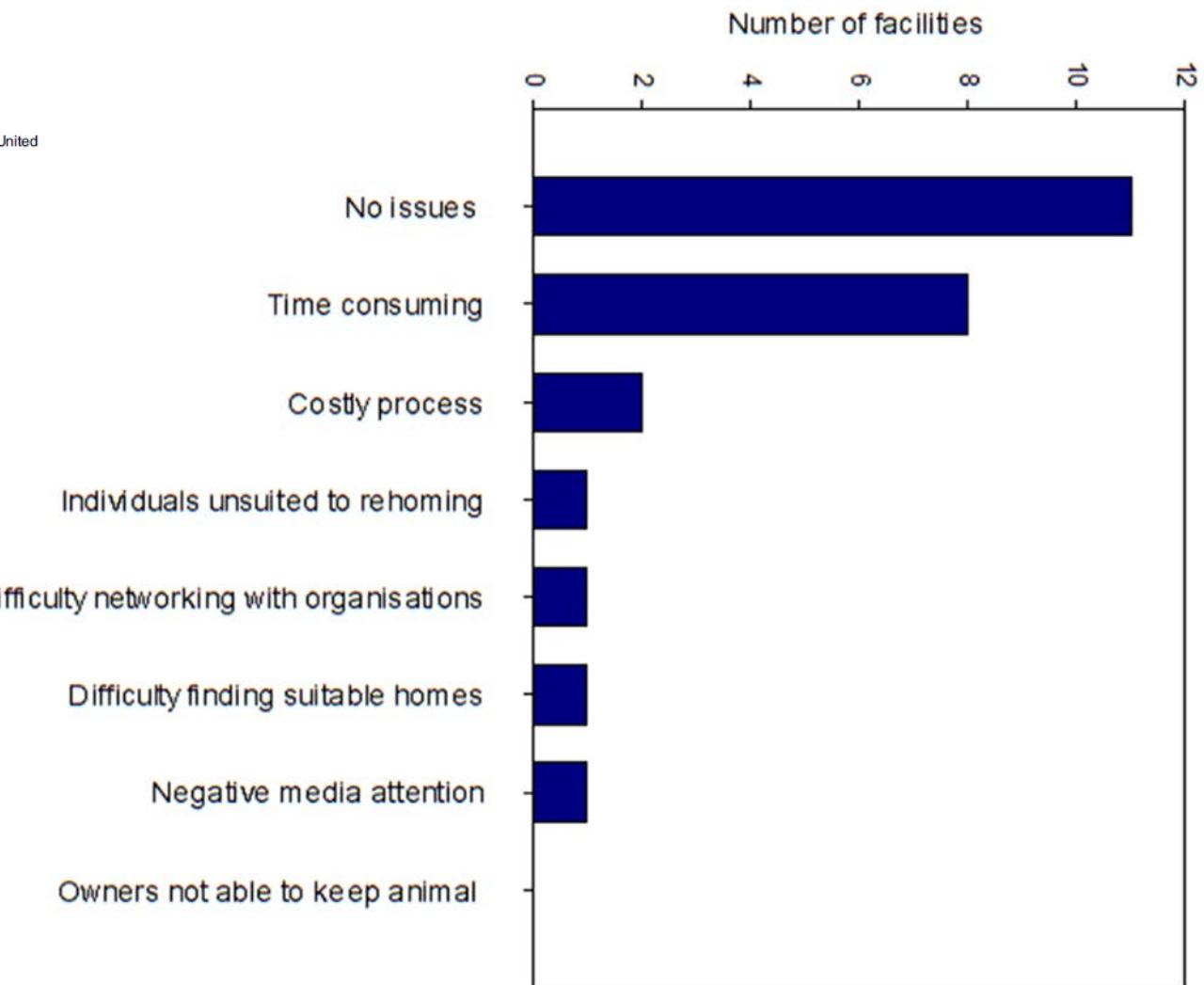
Tess Skidmore \*, Emma Roe

School of Geography and Environmental Science, University of Southampton, Southampton, England, United Kingdom



Adobe Stock 1407382005

Main difficulties experienced by 19 UK research facilities that completed the questionnaire that have rehomed in the past 3 years



All animals are equal, but some are more equal than others.

Historically strongly biased towards dogs and cats (not commonly used in research)



**91.6%** of 1.47 million  
experimental procedures in 2023



< 1.2% of experimental  
procedures in 2023

## Animal individuality

### Favour rehome-ability

- Being viewed as 'one'
- Show reciprocity to human interaction
- Long lifespan (favour bond development)
- Being named
- Being kept in small numbers



## Animal aesthetics

'Cuddly charisma'



## Number of homes available



## Public concerns surrounding animal research

Pressuring towards  
implementing re-  
homing...

... but biasing in favours  
of typical pet species

## Idea of 'home'

Cultural narrative of 'home' & where the species  
'belong'



## Facility resources

[... though does not affect all species the same]

## Survey among FELASA members about rehoming of animals used for scientific and educational purposes

Christel PH Moons<sup>1</sup> , Andrea M Spiri<sup>2</sup> , Jackie Boxall<sup>3</sup>, Annet Louwerse<sup>4</sup>, Lars F Mikkelsen<sup>5</sup>, Mirjam Roth<sup>6</sup> and Emilie Ecuer<sup>7</sup> 



Laboratory Animals  
2023, Vol. 57(5) 565–571  
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# Rats generally do not tick the ‘rehomability’ boxes, and though ...

**Table 2.** Frequency distribution of respondents (institutions) indicating that they have rehomed a particular species during the preceding three years and of institutions planning to do so during the next three years (N=97).

| Rehomed during the preceding three years |                       | Rehoming during the next three years |                       |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Species                                  | Number of respondents | Species                              | Number of respondents |
| Rats                                     | 28                    | Rats                                 | 25                    |
| Dogs                                     | 24                    | Dogs                                 | 19                    |
| Mice                                     | 17                    | Mice                                 | 16                    |
| Cats                                     | 12                    | Cats                                 | 10                    |
| Rabbits                                  | 11                    | Pigs and minipigs                    | 8                     |
| Pigs and minipigs                        | 9                     | Domestic fowl                        | 8                     |
| Domestic fowl                            | 8                     | Sheep and goats                      | 6                     |
| Guinea pigs                              | 6                     | Ferrets                              | 4                     |
| Ferrets                                  | 6                     | Macaques or vervets                  | 4                     |
| Hamsters                                 | 5                     | Hamsters                             | 3                     |
| Cattle                                   | 5                     | Guinea pigs                          | 3                     |
| Equines                                  | 5                     | Rabbits                              | 3                     |
| Macaques or vervets                      | 4                     | Cattle                               | 3                     |
| Sheep and goats                          | 4                     | Equines                              | 3                     |
| Gerbils                                  | 2                     | Gerbils                              | 2                     |
| Llama or alpaca                          | 2                     | Other birds                          | 2                     |
| Other birds                              | 2                     | Other freshwater fish                | 2                     |
| Zebrafish                                | 2                     | Llama or alpaca                      | 1                     |
| Other freshwater fish                    | 2                     | Quails                               | 1                     |
| Quails                                   | 1                     | Pigeons                              | 1                     |
| Ducks and geese                          | 1                     | Zebra finches                        | 1                     |
| Pigeons                                  | 1                     | Arboreal anurans                     | 1                     |
| Zebra finches                            | 1                     | Zebrafish                            | 1                     |

- Re-homing animal used in research where possible happens, although in low numbers
- Can be beneficial to animal and people welfare
- Some challenges



alamy

Image 55-247211  
www.alamy.com

Gap in knowledge!



dreamstime.com

D 80270980 © vvvstockphoto

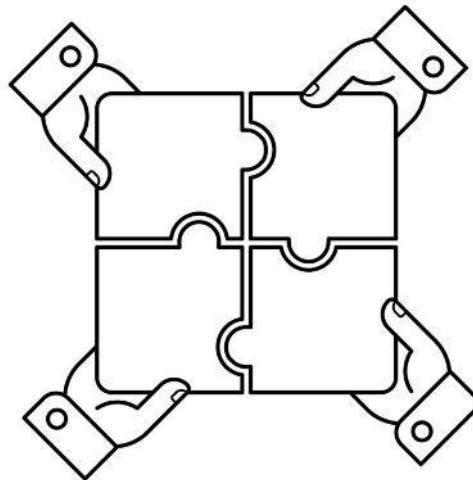
- Long-term surveying of re-homed rats used in research; currently 67 rats (30 homes)
- Questionnaires
- At re-homing,  $\approx$  3 months, then every  $\approx$  6 months post-rehoming, up to 3 years
- Housing and management, health, behaviour, adopters' perception



AWERB  
members

Home Office  
named roles

Animal Service  
Unit members



Researchers  
rehoming rats

Communication route for larger-scale recruitment of suitable homes?

Internal re-homing generic policy (incl. responsibility and alternative, e.g. tissue sharing network) and species-specific 'toolkits'



# Thank you!

---

UoB Named Veterinary Surgeon and Named Information officer

UoB Animal Service Unit members

UoB AWERB members

UoB ASU Culture of care group

Rat adopters who kindly engaged -and still do- with our longitudinal survey



The **A S C**  
Animals in Science Committee

# **Setting up & successfully running a re-homing program as part of your Culture of Care**

# Setting up & successfully running a **re-homing program** as part of your Culture of Care

- ◆ NACWO
- ◆ NVS & NIO
- ◆ University of Strathclyde



Home Office

**Advice Note: 03/2015  
Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986**

**Re-homing and setting free of animals**

**Animals in Science Regulation Unit**

**October 2015**

The purpose of this Advice note on re-homing and setting free is to provide information on the legal requirements and guidance on current best practice in re-homing and setting free.

The Home Office expects that every opportunity will be taken to re-home animals where it is appropriate to do so.

# Advice note 03/2015

- Ethically, animals must only be re-homed or set free where it is in the best interests of the welfare of the individual animal and when it poses no danger to public or animal health, or to the environment.
- Consent will only be given for rehoming or setting free if the Secretary of State (SoS) is satisfied that the criteria specified in ASPA section 17A section (3) and (4) have been met.

# Advice note 03/2015

---

How is this Advice Note structured?

---

Section 1 describes the legal framework for consent to re-home or set free and explains how to obtain this consent;

---

Section 2 describes the role of AWERB in re-homing and setting free;

---

Section 3 provides advice on the re-homing of animals;

---

Section 4 provides advice on the setting free of wild animals.

---

The advice provided in Sections 2, 3 and 4 is not prescriptive.

## Section 1 – Legal framework

- 1.2. What is a relevant protected animal
  - all protected animals bred, kept or supplied with the intention of their use in regulated procedures, or those that are being or have been used in regulated procedures
- 1.3. Assessing suffering & adverse effects
  - the animal used for regulated procedures may be kept alive only if it has returned to a general state of health and well-being and requires no health maintenance procedures above the lower threshold for ASPA regulation
  - a veterinary surgeon must decide the criteria under which an animal can be determined as not suffering, or not likely to suffer adverse effects as a result of the regulated procedures applied to that particular species

# Advice note 03/2015

## Section 1 – Legal framework

- 1.4. Responsibility for the animal
  - animals that are kept alive at a licensed establishment at the end of use in regulated procedures are the responsibility of the Establishment Licence Holder. These animals must continue to be kept at the establishment under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon unless the Secretary of State consents, under ASPA section 17A, to re-homing or setting free [Establishment Licence (PEL) standard condition 23 (2)], or the animals are re-used or killed

# Advice note 03/2015

## Section 1 – Legal framework

### 1.5 Criteria for consent to re-home

| 1.5 Criteria for consent to re-home  |   |
|--|---|
| Animal's state of <b>health</b> allows it to be re-homed   | Assessed by vet or other suitably qualified person for that species or a competent person following vet direction   |
| Poses <b>no danger</b> to public health, animal health or the environment                        | Examples given of when this might not be the case (e.g., drugs used on study, implanted devices, etc). GAAs are a very special case as other legislation will also apply.   |
| Adequate scheme in place for ensuring the <b>socialisation</b> of the animal upon being re-homed | Species-specific but tailored to the individual; may involve interaction with other animals of same species, other species and humans; enhance ability to adapt to new environment; documented and AWERB approved |
| Appropriate measures have been taken to <b>safeguard</b> the animal's well-being when re-homed   | Specific for the individual and its situation; could include identification, records, transport, additional or on-going support (information, food provision, health advice etc.); feedback to the establishment. |

# Advice note 03/2015

## Section 1 – Legal framework

- **1.6. Records required**
  - Records of all animals released from ASPA control, including those that are re-homed or set free, must be kept for five years by the establishment [PEL standard condition 8].
  - These records should include:
    - date the animal is re-homed
    - name and address of the new owner of the animal
  - Consider sharing relevant health records held by NVS with new owner
  - Additional records for horses, cats, dogs and NHPs

# Advice note 03/2015

## Section 1 – Legal framework

### 1.7 How to apply to re-home protected animals

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Consent provided in <u>Establishment Licence</u>  | For animals that have completed regulated procedures and remain as stock animals at the establishment under the supervision of the NVS (or the suitably qualified person), before being re-homed; for re-homing surplus breeding stock or animals which do not end up being used in regulated procedures |
| Consent provided in <u>Project Licence</u>        | In relevant section of the PPL [ <i>Fate of animals not killed at the end of the protocol</i> ] where animals are re-homed immediately after the procedures have ended   |
| Consent provided by <u>Individual application</u> | For single incidents of re-homing of protected animals where there is no authority on the establishment or individual project licences. Use the form in Appendix 2 of the Advice Note  |

# Advice note 03/2015

## Section 1 – Legal framework

### 1.8 Information required for consent

| 1.8 Information required for consent                       |  |
|--|--|
| Basis for classifying as <u>protected animal</u>           | a) is being or has been used in a regulated procedure;<br>b) is being or has been kept for use in a regulated procedure;<br>c) has been bred for use in a regulated procedure; or<br>d) is being or has been kept for the purpose of being supplied for use in a regulated procedure |
| Specifications for <u>the animal/s</u> to be re-homed      | Species, age, numbers and identification (if applicable).<br>Whether they have been bred at the establishment or where they have been purchased from.<br>Description of the type of premises the animals will be re-homed to   |
| State of <u>health</u>                                     | Describe checks in place to verify the animal's state of health and identify the person with responsibility for performing these checks  |
| <u>Danger</u> to public health, animal health, environment | Describe how re-homing of the animal(s) poses no danger to public health, animal health or a risk to the environment.  |

# Advice note 03/2015

## Section 1 – Legal framework

### 1.8 Information required for consent (2)

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Description of <u>socialisation scheme</u> | Describe the AWERB approved socialisation scheme for the specific species or individual animal.                             |
| Any other <u>additional measures</u>       | Describe what other species-specific additional measures have been taken to safeguard the animal's well-being on re-homing. |

## Section 2 – AWERB involvement

- One of the roles of the AWERB is to develop ethical advice to the PEL-h regarding the opportunities for re-homing and setting animals free. Forms part of the AWERB's role in the **promotion of a culture of care** at the establishment and in the wider community. [PEL SC 6, 3]
- We would recommend that an establishment has policies on re-homing and setting free where appropriate and they are periodically reviewed.
- The AWERB should be confident that animals re-homed or set free from their establishment are adequately socialised and are able to adapt to their new environment.
- Many examples of how AWERBs can contribute to the development of effective re-homing and setting free schemes.

Identify the animal

- Age, Sex & ID
- Behaviour
- Health (current & Historic)
- Temperament
- Adaptability
- Initial vet & Tech check (depending on species, for all of the above)
- What Study – if- any was abnormal on; severity of procedures, return to normality, vet check

Find a home

- Staff, family and friends
- Word of mouth
- Actively advertise (But consider unwanted attention)
- Approach charitable organisation
- Fancier societies?
- Members of the public (background check?)

Check out the owners

- Can provide suitable accommodation – home visit to check (photo)
- Species experience
- Owner's lifestyle (e.g out from home most of the time)
- Appreciate costs (e.g pet insurance, vet fees, nurturing)
- Handling ability
- Garden? How much land? Children?
- Re-homing form
- Social animals will not be housed alone
- Other pets – compatibility issues; potential for cross-infections; prey predator?
- Bigger species – NVS / NACWO home visit a defo.

## Re-homing

### Things to consider

## Prepare the animal

- Species specific socialisation
- Meet the new owners on several occasions (depending on species)
- Training & habituation
- Share know @traits@ and likes/dislikes with the new owner
- Exposure to new items where possible (noises, smells, textures)
- Familiarise to transport crate
- Final health check
- Flea/worming/castration (legal issues)

## Saying Goodbye

- Suitable transport box/container
- Species specific care package to take home?
- Paperwork (forms/s signatures, vet certificate?, transfer of responsibilities, release from ASPA, not return policy? Health advice, clear agreement on future responsibilities...)
- Supply of original diet to wean off, enrichment items, some bedding
- Alert owner to transport stress
- Contact with new owners, 2 weeks, 3 months, more?
- Follow-up questionnaire

# Re-homing

## Things to consider

| Problem  | Possible solutions  |
|--|---|
| <b>Lack of new owners</b>  | This was at the top of everyone's list. Most advertised internally, some used local charities, but all felt that scope was limited.   |
| <b>Risk of exposure to new pathogens</b>                           | Warn the owner prior to departure; vaccinate if possible; advise period of quarantine/separation from other animal of the same species?   |
| <b>New owner cannot cope; animal is neglected</b>                  | Raise a concern with the RSPCA or SSPCA   |
| <b>Animal becomes unwell – health or behavioural problems</b>      | <p>Information. Managing expectations at the beginning, emphasising that the onus of care has passed over to the new owner.</p> <p>For larger species, the establishment could have an emergency rehoming fund?</p> |
| <b>Animal dies unexpectedly</b>                                    | Information. Managing expectations at the beginning.  |
| <b>The environment changes for the worse or is not as expected</b> | Try and create a list of possible people willing to foster while a new home is found.   |
| <b>Animal escapes</b>  | For smaller species, make sure the owner is aware this is a high risk unless precautions are taken.   |

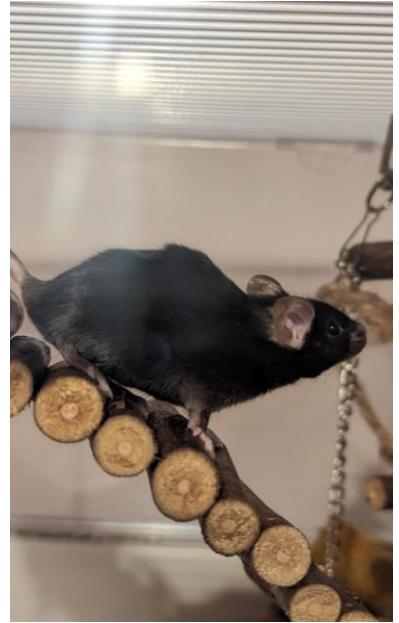
| Problem  | Possible solutions  |
|--|---|
| <b>Animal is not adapting / adjusting to new environment</b>   | Offer advice as best you can but reiterate duty of care is now on them (e.g., if needed, seeking further professional advice/support).  |
| <b>New owner backs out (i.e., does not want animal to come to them)</b>  | Try and have a waiting list? (possible for larger species)  |
| <b>Cannot contact the new owner for follow-up, they don't respond</b>  | Double-check all contact details are correct at start of process, before animal goes to new home. Leave message of support if possible. |
| <b>Establishment does not want to re-home, resistance from senior management</b>                                 | Reiterate Home Office expectation; get AWERB onboard and behind   |
| <b>Location of animal facility is remote, not easy to get to</b>   | If management is supportive, consider providing limited funding to potential new owners to facilitate access & transport                |
| <b>Negative press, open to activists' criticism (e.g., surplus production of animals not used in procedures)</b> | Ensure process is robust, re-homing is positive news, make it clear in your webpages  |

# Advertising ideas

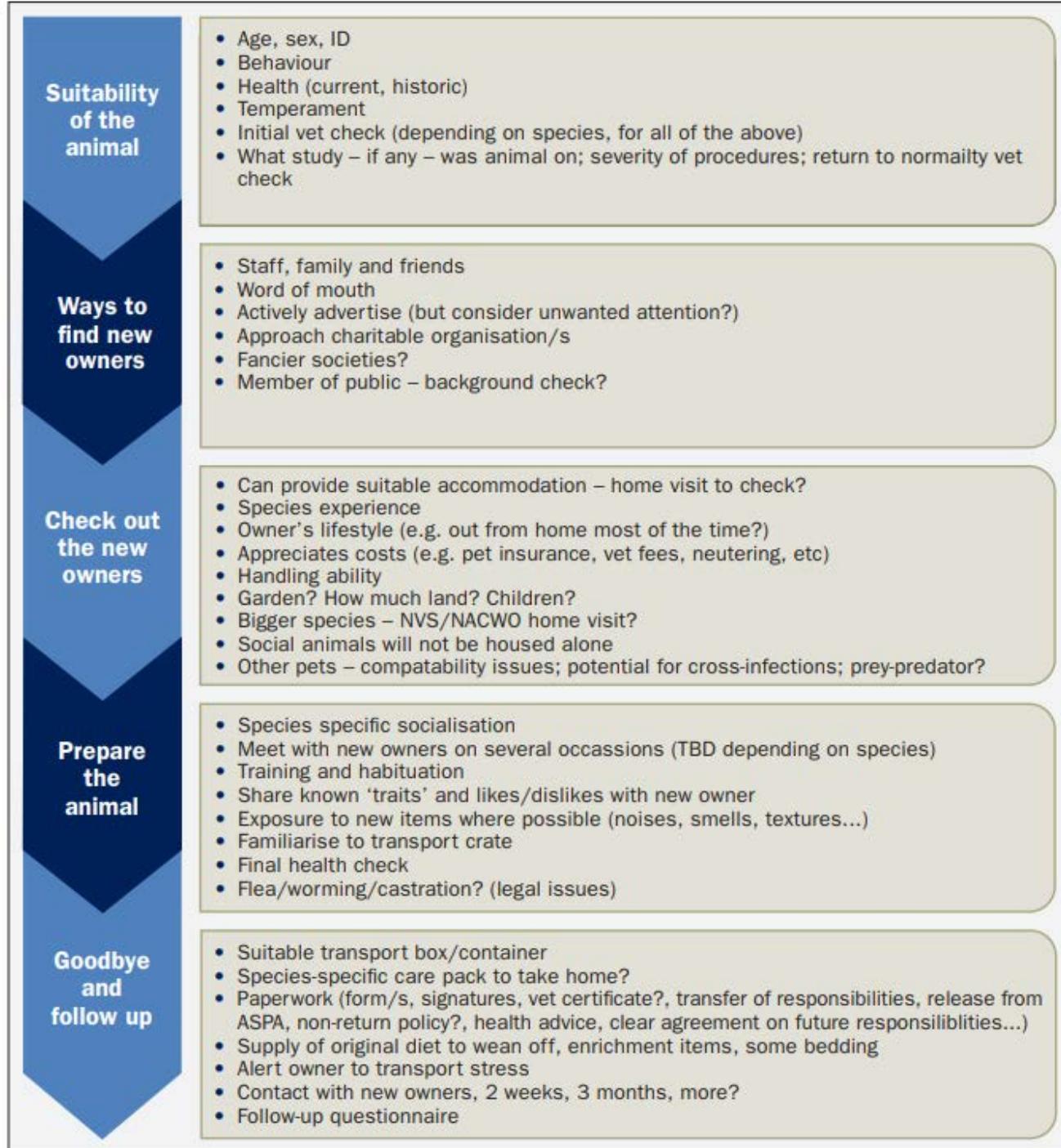
- Having a dedicated section/webpage in the establishment's intranet.
- Having a dedicated section/page in the public-facing website giving details of the programme.
- Advertising in the departmental/Faculty/Institutional newsletter.
- Advertising at internal CPD events.
- Having a “Re-homing gallery” in the animal unit showing photos of re-homed animals, for everyone to see.
- Advertising at 3Rs Days (internally/externally).
- Forming a network of ‘trusted new owners’ shared among different establishments.

# Re-homing gallery





# Questions?



# Re-homing

## Things to consider

The **A S C**  
Animals in Science Committee

# Break

Please return at 14:40

# Poll



**What species have you been successful with rehoming?**

- Small rodents
- Lagomorphs
- Dogs
- Cats
- Farm animals
- Other
- We are yet to successfully rehomed animals

[www.slido.com](http://www.slido.com)

# 1687460



The **A S C**  
Animals in Science Committee

# Case study: New Zealand partnership programme with animal welfare groups



Waipapa  
Taumata Rau  
**University**  
of Auckland

# University of Auckland's rehoming journey 2021 – 2025

Avian Medicine and Surgery  
Animal Welfare Officer | University Veterinarian  
Research and Innovation Office

15 October 2025





## Initially

- Staff at the University
- Friends of staff members
- Teaching (e.g. vet nursing)
- Extensive adoption questionnaire
- Authorisation at facility and by AWO





## Next

- Worked with one rehoming organisation
- Contract (non-disclosure)
- Developed with legal team
- Adoption criteria with organisation





## Currently

- Work with multiple organisations
  - New Zealand Anti-Vivisection Society
  - Helping You Help Animals
  - Raining Rabbits Rescue
- Contracts (open)
- Developed with legal team
- Rehomed > 300 animals





## Contracts

- Transport & Temporary Housing legislation
- Animals examined by a UoA veterinarian
- Criteria for rehoming, and no returns
- Info about health, welfare, and use
- Species, strain, age, sex, temperament, etc.
- No emotive/sensational language (e.g., rescue)
- AWO sign off - all written communication





## Benefits

### Organisations

- Tangible outcome of rehoming animals
- Positive and heartwarming publicity
- Potential to be taken seriously by scientific community

### University of Auckland

- Decrease number of animals euthanised
- Positive impact on staff!
- Build relationships with atypical organisations
- Raise awareness about animal-based research
- Reputation enhanced

### Animals

- Live as a pet and have a longer life
- Hopefully have a life worth living!
- Inspire people to continue supporting adoption



A big thank you to the University of Auckland for being open and working with us to rehome these beautiful animals! We are all planning to work together in the near future finding more forever homes for animals. Watch this space!



Zebra finches are ready for new homes!



49

5 comments 13 shares

2 May 2024



Shows  
Watch the latest from  
Newshub

HOME VIDEO NEW ZEALAND WORLD POLITICS SPORT ENTERTAINMENT

SCIENCE

## NZ Anti-Vivisection Society launches rat rehoming programme with University of Auckland

24/04/2024



Some rats who have been rehomed by NZAVS. Photo credit: Supplied / NZ Anti-Vivisection Society

In an unlikely collaboration, Aucklanders seeking to own a pet rat could now help save a life as the NZ Anti-Vivisection Society (NZAVS) launches a new programme to rehome rats bred or used for science.

The collaboration with scientists at the University of Auckland comes on World Day for Animals in Labs.

some truly heart warming news – we've been working behind the scenes with the University of Auckland to rehome as many rats as possible this Christmas!

rats were picked up from the University of Auckland and are on their way to the Sanctuary in Otaki where they will be desexed and prepped for their forever homes. ...



♥ 57 lives saved this Christmas ♥



316

38 Comments 89 Share



## Lessons



It's possible to do rehoming well  
Many species can be rehomed  
It's not possible to rehome all animals  
Money, time, and people are key



# Any Questions?





# Case study: US rehoming scheme - Homes for Animal Heroes

# HOMES for ANIMAL HEROES

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*Reed was one of 12  
puppies urgently  
rehommed at the start  
of COVID.*



A Program of the National Animal Interest Alliance



**NAIA**  
National  
Animal Interest  
Alliance

# About NAIA

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- Founded in 1991
- Represents a moderate, balanced viewpoint
- Provides resources to inform public knowledge, conversation and legislation

# Our Mission

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- Promote the welfare of animals
- Strengthen the human-animal bond
- Safeguard the rights of responsible animal owners, enthusiasts and professionals through research, public information, and sound public policy

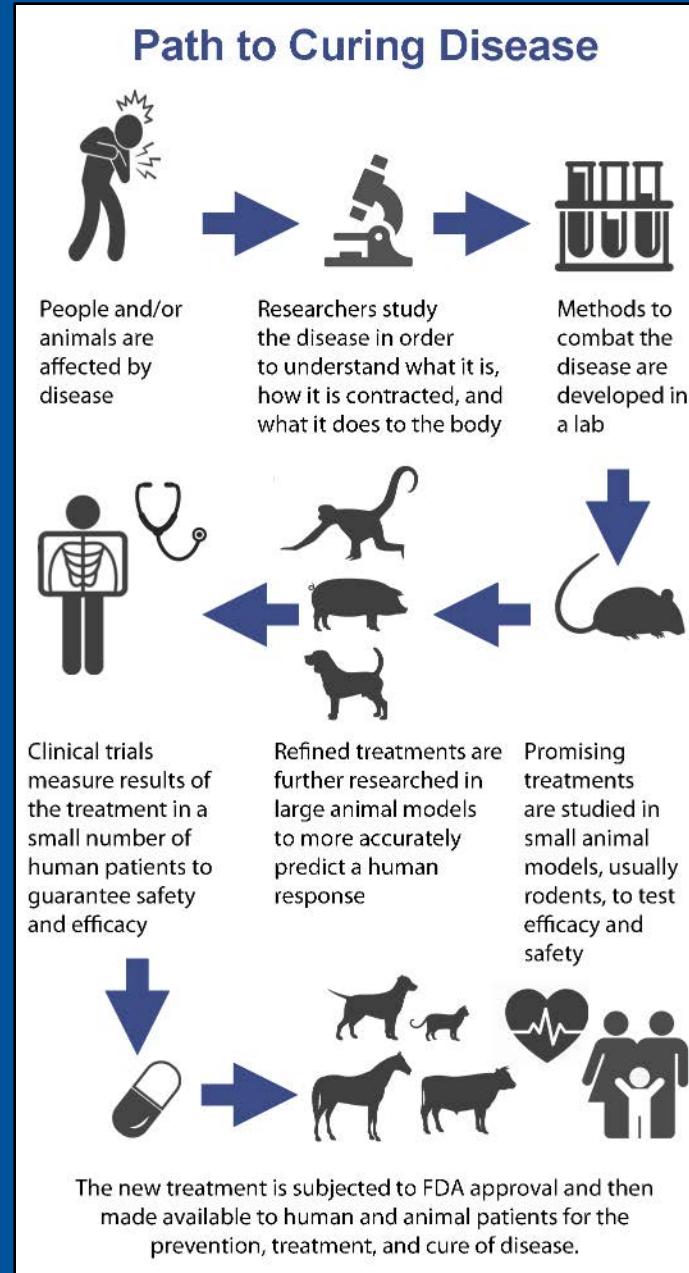


# HOMES for Animal Heroes

A Program of the National Animal Interest Alliance

# Program Goal 1

Raising awareness about the purpose of animals in research and their life-saving contributions



Taylor celebrated graduating veterinary school with her hero, Thorn.

## **Why is Thorn a hero?**

Thorn is an unaffected male from a colony of dogs with Batten Disease – a fatal, inherited disorder of the nervous system that affects dogs and young children.

# Program Goal 2

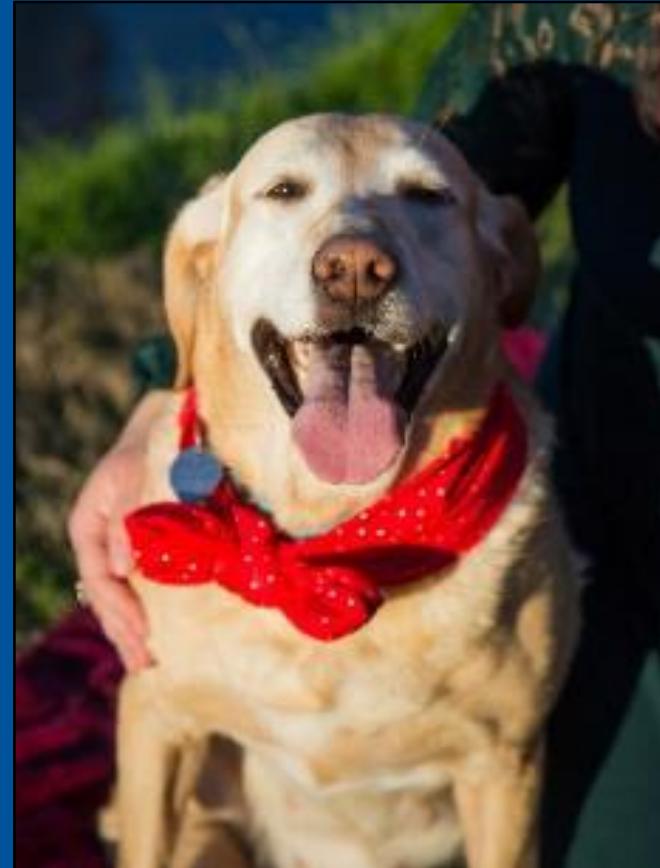
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Sharing knowledge of the care and consideration research professionals give to animals

# Program Goal 3

---

Rehoming canine heroes through a comprehensive adoption network



*Larson* from a genetic kidney disease colony.

# By the Numbers

---

**13**

States

**>2500**

Dogs  
Rehomed  
since 2017

**>20**

Partners



A Program of the National Animal Interest Alliance

# Program Growth

---

2017 2018 2019 2020 2024

|    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|
| CA | IA | CT | MA | CO |
| MO | IL | FL | MN | GA |
| TX | NC | WI | VA |    |
|    | NJ |    |    |    |
|    | NY |    |    |    |
|    | PA |    |    |    |

# The Public Is Listening

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Since Homes for Animal Heroes rehomed its first dog in 2017, it has been changing the conversation about animals in research in the media and other venues.

# Informing Legislation



## PENDING

TX  
IN  
HR2850  
(Humane Retirement  
Act)



## PASSED

MN (2014)  
CA, CT, NV (2015)  
NY (2016)  
IL (2017)  
MD, DE, RI (2018)  
OR (2019)  
**WA (2019)\***  
**NJ (2020)\***  
VA (2022)  
MA (2022)



**\*The “Beagle Freedom Bill” was renamed the “Homes for Animal Heroes Act” in Washington and New Jersey.**

# Who's Who?

---

- State Coordinators
- Partner Institutions
- Foster Volunteers
- Adopters



Rusty was adopted in August 2020  
through a new partnership.

# State Coordinators

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The primary point of contact for the research institution, fosters, and adopters

# Partner Institutions

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- Anonymity is ensured.
- Dogs must be deemed healthy and adoptable by the attending veterinarian.
- Dogs must be spayed/neutered, current on vaccinations and preventatives, and have had a dental cleaning.
- Dogs must be microchipped. Chips are registered to Homes for Animal Heroes.
- Partners and adopters are asked to make a donation.

# Foster Volunteers

---

- All foster applicants are carefully screened and a home visit is conducted.
- We do not work with outside rescues/shelters.



# What's Included?

1. Supplies
  - Food
  - Crates, beds, leashes, collars, toys, food bowls
  - Flea/tick, heartworm preventatives
2. Veterinary care
  - Routine care
  - Emergency services
3. Foster and adoption screenings



***Homes for Animal Heroes gives homes to canine heroes like Apollo in 13 states through a comprehensive foster network.***

# Adopters

---

- Available dogs are posted on our Facebook page and website.
- Applicants are thoroughly screened, and home visits are conducted.
- We select the best home for the dog based on its individual needs.

“When we heard about Homes for Animal Heroes, we thought this was a great way to adopt a pet that has helped improve the lives of children with Muscular Dystrophy. We met Hallie and thought that she was the sweetest, most rambunctious puppy. We were super excited to take her home!”

—Sarah, a pediatric nurse

# Meeting Demand

---

- There are more than 3,000 dogs available each year for rehoming in the United States, and as more states pass legislation, the demand for Homes for Animal Heroes is growing at a rate we cannot continue to meet.
- As a non-profit, we rely on support from **partner institutions and individuals. GOVERNMENT??**

# NIH Policy Change!

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Updated NIH Policy on Allowable Costs for Animals

**Notice Number:**

NOT-OD-25-163

**Release Date:**

September 25, 2025

## Animals

Allowable for the acquisition, care, use, and rehoming/retirement of experimental animals, contingent upon compliance with the applicable requirements of the PHS Policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (see [Public Policy Requirements and Objectives—Animal Welfare](#)). If the recipient operates an animal resource facility, charges for use of the facility should be determined in accordance with the [Cost Analysis and Rate Setting Manual for Animal Resource Facilities](#) (PDF, 32 MB) — May 2000.

**Together we can help canine  
heroes live the retirement lives  
they deserve.**

**Contact us to become a Homes  
for Animal Heroes partner.**

# THANK YOU!

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Georgia was one of 59 dogs  
rehomed in Illinois in 2020.



# Breakout Rooms

## 1. Developing a process

- Does your organisation have a rehoming policy?
- What processes does your establishment currently have in place for rehoming suitable animals?
- What should a robust and sustainable rehoming process look like?

## 3. Barriers and Challenges

- What processes does your establishment currently have in place for rehoming suitable animals?
- What concerns or challenges do you currently face regarding rehoming?
- If you do rehome, have you ever been in the position where you cannot find new owners?

## 2. Support and Resources

- What processes does your establishment currently have in place for rehoming suitable animals?
- What types of support, guidance, or resources would help you feel confident about undertaking rehoming activities?
- How might you work with other AWERBs or other stakeholders to share knowledge on rehoming?

## 4. Learnings and long-term follow-up

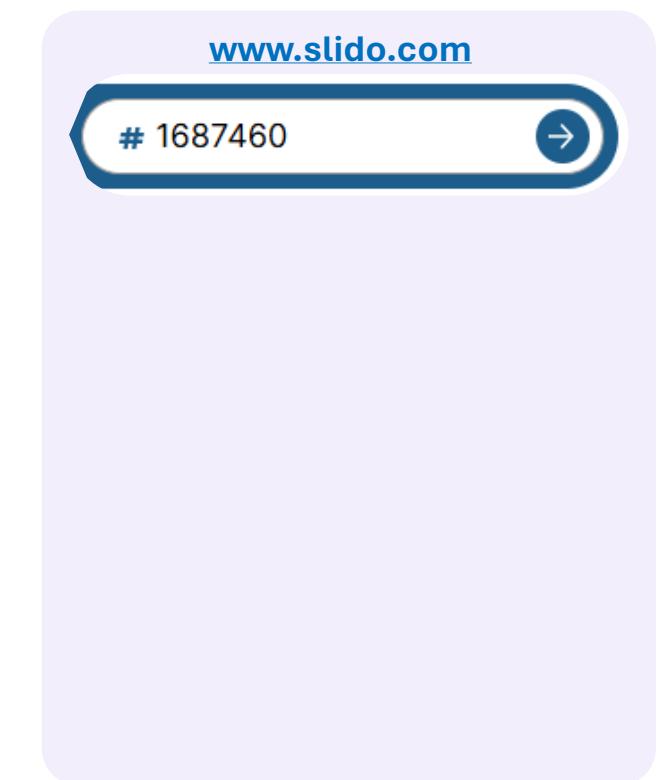
- What processes does your establishment currently have in place for rehoming suitable animals?
- How could feedback from previous rehoming efforts be captured and used to improve future schemes?
- What processes could be put in place to monitor the long-term welfare of animals after they leave the establishment?



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# Final thoughts and feedback

# Poll



# Poll



How useful did you find this workshop?

1

Not at all useful

2

3

4

5

Very useful



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# 1687460



# Thank you!

The **A S C**  
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## Useful links:

ASC website – [Animals in Science Committee - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/committees/animals-in-science-committee)

[Appointment details – Animals in Science Committee Members – Apply for a public appointment – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/jobs/applications/apply-for-a-public-appointment)

[ASC and AWERB Hub workshop report: April 2025 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/asc-and-awerb-hub-workshop-report-april-2025)

[Non-technical summaries and retrospective assessments - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-technical-summaries-and-retrospective-assessments)

[Non-human primates bred for use in scientific purposes: response from Lord Hanson - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/non-human-primates-bred-for-use-in-scientific-purposes-response-from-lord-hanson)

[Licence analysis review: response from the Home Office - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/licence-analysis-review-response-from-the-home-office)

AWERB Knowledge Hub – [Welcome - Knowledge Hub \(khub.net\) \[khub.net\]](https://khub.net/)  
(please email [asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:asc.secretariat@homeoffice.gov.uk) to join)