

## LASA POSITION PAPER

### Education and Training

#### Background

Under the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), persons intending to carry out scientific procedures on living animals, or who will be responsible for such projects, are required to undergo formal training. To meet these needs, a number of commercial and non-commercial courses have been established, accredited by one of the three accrediting bodies in the UK recognised by the Home Office (the Royal Society of Biology Accreditation Board, the Scottish Accreditation Board or the Universities' Accreditation Group). However, effective education and training also require awareness of contemporary good practice, by means of publications, attendance at, or participation in, meetings and continuing education programmes.

#### LASA Position

LASA believes that education and training is a prerequisite for, and is pivotal to, the understanding and practice of the science and welfare of laboratory animals. A primary object of the Association is to encourage education and training in laboratory animal science. LASA regards this as a process of continuing professional development (CPD).

LASA promotes education through the following:

- A long-established Education, Training and Ethics Section (ETES), which reports directly to LASA Council. This section organises meetings and workshops, often in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including the Home Office. These events usually lead to the production and publication of "Guiding Principles" that offer advice on the current state of knowledge in relevant areas and are influential at the National, and sometimes European level. These publications are available on-line at [lasa.co.uk/publications](http://lasa.co.uk/publications).
- Scientific Sections within LASA explore areas such as Alternatives, 3Rs, Animal Health and Nutrition, Care and Welfare, Management, Toxicology and Pathology, Transgenic Animals. These sections typically hold one or two meetings annually, and publish reports in *LASA forum* newsletter and/or *Laboratory Animals*, LASA's official journal.
- LASA organises an Annual Conference (usually in November), which offers a forum to discuss and to promote new information, ideas and technologies that are relevant to all aspects of laboratory animal science and welfare.
- The Association operates a CPD Scheme which offers points for attendance at relevant LASA and partner organizations' meetings.

LASA also maintains close collaboration with partner organisations such as the Institute of Animal Technology (IAT), the Laboratory Animal Veterinary Association (LAVA), the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) and the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS), and with the UK Home Office. Through these interactions, LASA is well-placed to monitor the impact of scientific advances and emerging technologies on the supply, use and welfare of laboratory animals and so make informed contributions to Education and Training and decisions at the National and European level.