

Application of the 3Rs through policy, inspection, and project licence assessment – examples from the UK regulator.

Speakers:

Mr Will Reynolds (Head of the Animals in Science Regulation Unit (ASRU), UK Home Office)

Will began his career as a Marine Biologist, gaining 10 years experience in marine research for UK Government and internationally, primarily in biological effects techniques. He was later an adviser to the UK Department for Environment Chief Scientist on animal health and welfare, before moving to the Home Office. Will has worked in policy advice as Secretary to the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs and as Head of UK Advisory Bodies. This role included oversight of the advisory body for the use of animals in science. Will subsequently took up a role as Head of Policy in the Animals in Science Regulation Unit, and is now the Head of the UK regulator.

Dr Peter Gray (Principal Inspector, ASRU)

Peter is a veterinary surgeon who qualified in 2000. After several years in clinical practice, he joined the UK State Veterinary Service, where he worked on animal welfare regulation and assessment, international trade, and disease control. He joined the UK Animals in Science Regulation Unit in 2013 and has gained experience in inspecting and assessing in all of the major sectors who carry out scientific work using animals. He is currently one of three Principal Inspectors who lead the 22-strong Inspectorate team.

Abstract

The UK Government considers that there is a continuing need for properly regulated and ethically conducted research using animals, where the harm caused to the animals is justified by the potential benefits, suffering is minimised, and where no practicable alternative exists. The UK's regulatory system is geared to prevent animals being used where a practicable alternative exists, and those licensed to carry out research using animals must ensure that their proposals comply fully with the principles of the 3Rs.

Implementation of the 3R's is, in effect, everyone's responsibility. Many 3Rs successes are delivered by scientists in the lab, or by named persons and technical staff at the cage side. National governments and regulators have a key role to play in setting the direction, leading by example, and providing the conditions necessary for effective implementation of the 3Rs.

In this presentation, the Head of the UK's Animals in Science Regulation Unit, and one of the Principal Inspectors, will explore several examples of how the UK government and the regulatory body have acted, at different levels, to ensure the 3Rs are at the heart of all work involving animals in science.