



**LAVA – Laboratory Animals Veterinary Association –** represents veterinary surgeons and students in UK across the whole spectrum of laboratory animal science and medicine.

#### **LAVA position on the use of animals in research**

LAVA recognises that animals used in research contribute to improved human health and welfare, and fully supports the principles of the **3Rs** – [www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/the-3rs)

LAVA believes that laboratory animal veterinarians have a pivotal role when animals are used in scientific procedures. Primarily to ensure the delivery of high levels of animal care and welfare.

This can be achieved through a number of roles, primarily: as **NVS** (Named Veterinary Surgeon); as veterinary scientist; as veterinary pathologist; as HOI (Home Office Inspector).

#### **What does a Laboratory Animal Vet do?**

**An NVS** – is a ‘Named Person’ as defined by Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (A(SP)A). they advise on the care and welfare of laboratory animals and are **independent** of the research

**A veterinary scientist** – are active members of a research team with a vested interest in the research. They use their veterinary knowledge to select appropriate animal models and use their veterinary skills to promote animal welfare e.g. anaesthesia and surgery.

**A veterinary pathologist** – have a critical role in routine health screening; clinical diagnosis; and maximising data from experimental subjects.

**A HOI** – advise Secretary of State regarding licence applications under A(SP)A and monitor standards and compliance of licenced establishments.

#### **What does LAVA do?**

- Provides CPD events
- Liaises with other stakeholders e.g. Home Office, RCVS, IAT, LASA, RSPCA, UFAW
- Provide support and advise to its members as and when required

**Through these activities LAVA seeks to promote the welfare of laboratory animals**

LAVA is a signatory to the **Concordat on Openness on Animal Research** which aims to foster a culture of openness.

This will enable people to discuss the use of animals in research from a knowledgeable position and draw their own conclusions about their use for scientific and medical advancement.



#### **LAVA Extramural study (EMS) Scheme (Further information at [www.lava.uk.net](http://www.lava.uk.net))**

**Aim:** to provide students an opportunity to gain an understanding of how laboratory animals are used and the impact of the veterinary profession on the care and welfare of laboratory animals.

- LAVA enables and funds the placement of veterinary students at Designated Establishments in industry and academia
- Up to £300 expense reimbursed by LAVA for each placement

#### **Membership**

- Full membership is open to all veterinary surgeons with a professional interest in laboratory animal science. Applicants must be proposed by a current LAVA member, or present satisfactory credentials to Council
- Full membership is £50/y
- Student membership is open to undergraduates of RCVS-accredited veterinary degree courses, and is free while students remain an undergraduate
- For further information email [membership-secretary@lava.uk.net](mailto:membership-secretary@lava.uk.net) or visit [www.lava.uk.net](http://www.lava.uk.net)