

Enhanced animal welfare, better science - it's all about understanding animals

LASACON 25 pre-conference workshop 18th December 2025

Led by Dr Penny Hawkins, Head, [RSPCA Animals in Science Department](#)

10:30	Introduction - Dr Vijay Pal Singh, President, Laboratory Animal Scientists' Association (India)
10:35	Presentation - results of the survey on severity and comparison with data from other countries
10:45	Presentation - what do we mean by 'animal welfare'?
11:00	Presentation - understanding lab animal welfare needs and implementing refinements to reduce suffering and improve welfare
11:40	Discussion - do you apply any of the suggestions that you saw in the presentation, for reducing harms? Are there any that you'd like to try? Would you be supported, or would you encounter obstacles (and if so, how would you overcome these)?
12:00	Break
12:10	Interactive exercise - empathising with animals: case studies
12:35	Feedback from empathy exercise and concluding comments from the morning session
12:50	Lunch
13:35	Presentation - understanding cumulative severity: the Roadmap to Refinement
13:55	Practical exercise in pairs/round tables; using the Roadmap tool and an example protocol. What causes of pain and distress can you identify; how would you reduce these; what practical welfare indicators can you identify?
14:15	Feedback from Roadmap exercise
14:35	Break
14:45	Presentation - euthanasia and humane killing: minimising suffering
15:15	Interactive poll to see which techniques different institutions are using. How effectively do participants feel they are able to refine humane killing and what would they need to make further progress?
15:40	Conclusions, including an interactive exercise to see what participants intend to do as a result of the workshop
15:50	Close