

SCOTTISH ACCREDITATION BOARD

Newsletter Spring/Summer 2026



Photograph courtesy of Professor Stephen Phillips

Summer has arrived and with it the edition of the latest SAB Newsletter. Alison Michie has now taken over as Chair of SAB and is doing a very good job with Stephen Phillips' support as Vice-Chair. The Board members are very proactive and enthusiastic and we hope to recruit more members in the near future.

Latest updates

- **Funding:**

There have been a number of funding requests submitted to SAB which we welcome. However, to make this a more structured and formal process we have introduced two deadlines each year for requests (15th February and 15th October). Requests for funding are considered from academic institutes to assist in meeting our objective of the 'advancement of education'. Applications may also be considered for relevant travel

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requests on an 'ad hoc' basis, throughout the year. There is an online form to complete on our website when applying for funding and there is an option to add a link to provide any further information that can't be included on the online form - [Support Funding](#).

- **Certificate date:**

Following a number of queries on which date the certificate is valid, to clarify - the date the trainee passed the examination is the date taken irrelevant of the date the certificate was issued.

- **Learning outcomes:**

A reminder please for trainers to embed the relevant learning outcomes on the presentation slides. This helps the assessors when they visit the course

Please note that the Home Office "Change" programme should be included in the courses.

- **Logo update:**

After 20 years, we have decided to refresh the SAB logo. A new logo has been agreed and we will begin the process of replacing the old logo on certificates, the website, forms, letter headings and other relevant paperwork. We will share the new logo when this process is complete. We hope you like it as much as we do. Please bear with us during this transition.

- **Extensions and delays policy:**

In line with the new draft Home Office guidance for training and continuous professional development, SAB have reviewed their current policy and reduced the timescale for extension and delays to **6 months maximum** before the trainee needs to resit the course (except when exceptional circumstances apply), and in every case, written justification will be needed.

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TAWG Update

A meeting was held in January 2026 where a number of issues were discussed including: how many questions/points per module should be asked, standardising assessments across the AB's, pre-course tests, module 3 questions and an item difficulty index. All of these items will be discussed at the next meeting on 17th August, and after consultation with the other AB's, will be highlighted in the Autumn/Winter Newsletter. The most commonly used species, and therefore highest number of questions available are mice followed by fish therefore these questions will be focussed on first.

Scottish 3Rs Day

Alison Michie and Karen Dunn attended on behalf of SAB, the first Scottish 3Rs day hosted by the University of Dundee at the Bonar Hall on Thursday 4th June. Thank you to everyone for organising such a great programme.

The day started with a talk from Dr Juliet Dukes highlighting replacement as a key theme to tackle in research. The discussion then moved on to a talk from Dr David Bassett discussing the development of 3Rs strategies in fish studies. Dr Esther Pearch from NC3Rs rounded off the morning with a talk about the important role played by animal technicians in helping produce reliable results.

After an excellent lunch where there was the opportunity to chat to over 18 trade companies that sponsored the event, everyone who submitted a poster was given a chance to present the take home message of their submitted poster. This was a fantastic opportunity for the audience to see the breadth of studies what are ongoing in Scotland that align with the 3Rs. Some posters were pre-selected for an enhanced presentation later that afternoon. Poster judging was performed both by a judging panel and the audience, through an app, ensuring engagement from across the group. SAB was delighted to provide and present the poster awards, and were pleased that both the east and west of Scotland were represented in the prizes!

1st prize –

Refinement: Voluntary Administration of Substances, University of Dundee

Runner up –

Syringe feeding to reduce single housed animals, University of Glasgow

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The afternoon was then rounded off with talks on scientific advances in pain assessment and compassion fatigue by Dr Matt Leach and Dr Lorena Sordo respectively, then a drinks reception in the Dundee University Students Union, which was excellent.

Home Office Update

The Policy Group of the Home Office have informed the TASG group that the Guidance document for Training and Development is to be reviewed again before publication, including consideration of all feedback received and incorporation as appropriate. ASRU anticipates publication in early autumn, following further review of the final document (i.e. from TASG).

Latest Website Updates

- **Announcement of New Animals in Science Committee**

The announcement of six new members of the Animals in Science Committee has now been published: Appointments to the Animals in Science Committee: April 2026 – GOV.UK

On behalf of SAB, I hope you all have a very pleasant summer.

Cathy Godfrey
SAB Company Secretary

**Photograph courtesy of
Professor Alison Michie**

