



Canadian Council on Animal Care Conseil canadien de protection des animaux

CCAC MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013-2014

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CCAC MID-YEAR PERFORMANCE REPORT 2013–2014

In compliance with the planning and reporting framework required by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), the *CCAC Mid-Year Performance Report 2013-2014* provides Council members with a public report on CCAC activities. This report is intended to be used by Council members to help inform their home agencies/organizations about the activities and programs of the CCAC.

1. Assessment and Certification Program

As of November 21, 2013, 168 organizations of all sizes hold a CCAC Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice[®]: 110 academic institutions (research centres, colleges and small, medium and large universities), 31 government organizations (research and testing centres) and 27 private organizations (conducting research, testing, or production of animals or biologics for scientific purposes).

Between February 6, 2013, and November 21, 2013, three government institutions and four academic institutions left the program because they were no longer conducting animal-based work or they were absorbed into another institution. Eight organizations have approached the CCAC for a possible certification.

1.1 Assessment Visits

The Assessment and Certification Sector conducted 49 assessment visits between February 6 and November 21, 2013: 35 regular, 5 interim, 9 special, and 0 orientation visits.

1.2 Assessment and Implementation Reports: the Certification Process

Following assessment visits, detailed reports are prepared by CCAC assessment directors working with assessment panel members and the Assessment and Certification Committee (AACC). On April 1, 2013, the CCAC closed its last scientific writer position, and assessment directors began writing assessment reports using a new, user-friendly format designed to:

- structure all information clearly
- highlight and measure the strengths and weaknesses of institutional programs (both for institutions themselves, and to better focus the CCAC's work)
- make production of the reports as efficient as possible

Assessment reports support institutions in achieving best practices in animal care and use, identify deficiencies, and, in most cases, include recommendations to help institutions improve their animal care and use program and meet CCAC standards. Between February 6 and November 21, 2013 (date of production of this report), 45 assessment reports have been completed. The average time required to produce an assessment report, from the day of the visit to the day the report is sent to the institution, was 7.6 weeks (range: 1–17 weeks). Thirty-seven of the forty-five reports (82%) were sent within the established timelines (10 weeks or less for small and medium sized institutions, 15 weeks or less for large institutions).

Between February 6 and November 21, 2013, the CCAC Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice[®] was issued to 38 institutions. Twenty institutions were assigned a status of Compliance (three institutions received a Certificate following an interim visit), 17 institutions were assigned a status of Conditional Compliance and one institution was assigned a status of Probation.

Of the 77 implementation reports and other institutional responses received between February 6 and November 21, 2013, 61 have been processed. Fifty-five of these were processed within the ten week target. The average length of time to process all institutional responses received in this period was 6.9 weeks (range: 0-14 weeks, where 0 denotes the receipt of a Certificate immediately following an interim visit).

1.3 Additional Assessment and Certification Program Activities

Creation of a community representative forum

The Assessment and Certification Sector contributed to the creation and moderation of a new forum to facilitate exchanges between community representatives on animal care committees across the country, and is ready to assist in other such opportunities for exchange.

Review and development of CCAC Policy Statements, Frequently Asked Questions and other documents

Scientific Merit – The new *CCAC policy statement on: scientific merit and ethical review of animal-based research* and accompanying Frequently Asked Questions were posted on the CCAC website in October 2013.

Policy for Animal Care Committees (previously known as the *policy statement on: terms of reference for animal care committees*) – The Assessment and Certification Sector is working with the AACC to replace the 2006 *CCAC policy statement on: terms of reference for animal care committees* with updated guidance for ACCs. The new policy and accompanying FAQs are under development, in parallel with a revision of the 2008 *CCAC policy statement for: senior administrators responsible for animal care and use programs*, to ensure that the responsibilities of ACCs and those of senior administrators are clearly and separately defined.

Scope of Animal Use in the CCAC Program

The Assessment and Certification Committee has contributed to the development of new guidance to clarify the CCAC's expectations with regard to animal use. It is expected to be approved by Council in 2014.

Program Review Form

The content of the *Animal Care and Use Program Review Form* (PRF) was completely reviewed and updated, and a new format of the document is under development, including a separate PRF designed for institutions that use animals only for teaching purposes. The enhanced format will be more user-friendly, and allow functions such as pasting text from a MS Word document, and tracking changes.

2. Guidelines and Three Rs Program

2.1 Genetically engineered animals

The draft *CCAC guidelines on: genetically engineered animals used in science* has undergone four levels of external review and is currently being finalized for CCAC Council approval and publication. A number of supporting documents on topics such as refinements to generation and genotyping, animal documentation and archiving are undergoing translation before being posted on the Three Rs microsite. The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director attended an international

meeting, *Regulating Biotechnology: At the Interface between Science and Ethics*, in Ottawa on April 25, 2013.

2.2 Marine mammals

The Marine Mammals Subcommittee held a teleconference on April 9, 2013 and approved the draft guidelines document for publication, subject to resolution of the final issues. Final comments were received from the Marine Mammals Subcommittee on May 22, 2013. The draft was edited and submitted to the Guidelines Committee for approval to publish on October 20, 2013. The document was accompanied by the reviewers' comments to provide transparency and assist Guidelines Committee members in making a decision

2.3 Animal user training

The revised draft of the *CCAC guidelines on: institutional animal user training* underwent widespread review during the period of March 5 - May 6, 2013. The draft is currently undergoing revision based on feedback from the final review

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director gave a presentation on the proposed changes to the animal user training guidelines at the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) Symposium on May 6, 2013 in Winnipeg.

2.4 Air quality

The final round of the survey to determine performance standards for air quality in laboratory animal facilities was launched on November 11, 2013.

The Director of Guidelines Development attended a meeting on energy efficient labs on May 7, 2013 in Toronto to gain more information on the development of performance standards for air quality. Additionally, the Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director attended sessions on air quality at the Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) Symposium to determine how similar issues were being handled in other countries.

2.5 Nonhuman primates

Five subcommittee meetings have been held via Skype (March 22, April 25, June 26, September 13, and November 22, 2013) to draft the following sections of the guidelines on nonhuman primates: fluid and food intake regulation; surgery; anesthesia and analgesia; procurement; and disease prevention.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director attended sessions on nonhuman primates at Federation of European Laboratory Animal Science Associations (FELASA) Symposium, to gain international perspectives on their care and use.

2.6 Rats

The subcommittee met via Skype on July 4, 2013 to initiate drafting of the Introduction and Facilities Sections. Drafts of these sections were further developed electronically through the subcommittee SharePoint site, and a teleconference was on September 10, 2013 to further discuss issues that arose. A teleconference was held on November 12, 2013 to review these sections and initiate work on the facility management and procurement sections.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director attended sessions relating to rat housing, husbandry and environmental enrichment at the CALAS Symposium on May 6, 2013.

2.7 Mice

The work of the Subcommittee on Mice parallels that of the Subcommittee on Rats, which allows for cross fostering of ideas on the type of material to be included in each of these guidelines documents. The Subcommittee on Mice held teleconferences on July 3 and September 10, 2013, and has been working electronically through their SharePoint site to develop drafts of the Introduction and Facilities Section. A teleconference was held on November 13, 2013 to review these sections and initiate work on the facility management and procurement sections

Sessions on housing, husbandry and environmental enrichment that were attended by the Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director at the CALAS Symposium were also relevant to the development of the mice guidelines.

2.8 Welfare Assessment

The CCAC Guidelines Committee selected a Chair for the Subcommittee on Welfare Assessment from the list of candidates that was developed from solicitation of recommendations by scientific societies with related expertise, the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies, senior administrators, animal care committee coordinators and the CCAC Assessment Directors. The Guidelines Committee then worked with the Chair to set up a subcommittee to ensure diversity in terms of the species they work with, previous experience, geographic location, and type of organization (academia, industry, and governmental institute). The subcommittee held its first teleconference on Sept. 9, 2013, to gain an understanding of the process for developing CCAC guidelines and initiate an outline for this guidelines document. A second teleconference was held on November 18, 2013 to determine the criteria for welfare assessment.

2.9 Husbandry

A Chair and subcommittee for the husbandry guidelines were selected in the same manner as described for welfare assessment above. The Husbandry Subcommittee held its first teleconference on Sept. 13, 2013, to gain an understanding of the process for developing CCAC guidelines, agree to an outline, and initiate work on the Identification Section of this guidelines document. A second subcommittee teleconference was held on Nov. 12, 2013 to review the Identification section and initiate work on housing management and record keeping

2.10 Animal Use Data

Management of the CCAC Animal Use Data (AUD) was transferred to the Guidelines and Three Rs Sector in March 2013. To date the following tasks have been completed: validation of 2011 AUD; compilation of a 2011 AUD master spreadsheet; analysis of 2011 AUD in preparation for web publication; and revision of *Instructions for Completion of the AUD Form* to replace the *CCAC Interpretation Bulletin on: Animal Use Data Form*. Validation of 2012 AUD is on-going.

Reviews of institutions' Category of Invasiveness (CI)-E and teaching protocols prior to assessment visits have been conducted and relevant information forwarded to assessment directors. Post-assessment-visit interviews with assessment directors have been conducted to identify opportunities and challenges for implementation of Three Rs in Canada.

2.11 The Ethic of Animal Investigation

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director co-authored Griffin G. & Baar M. (2013) *Canada's Oversight of Animal Use in Science In: Regulations and Recommendations on Laboratory Animals in a Global Collaborative Research Environment* (Guillen J., ed.) Waltham, MA: Academic Press.

The Three Rs Program Coordinator presented information about the CCAC and Three Rs for a third year undergraduate class (ISCI-433-Ethic in Science) on October 22, 2013 at the University of British Columbia.

The following paper was published: Fenwick N. & Griffin G. (2013) Balancing reduction & refinement. *ATLA* 41: P33-P35. http://www.frame.org.uk/atla_issue.php?iss_id=142

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director is continuing as chair of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS) harmonization committee, and initiated a project to cluster acceptable guidelines, with harmonized principles where appropriate, in support of the elements recognized as necessary for a complete oversight system by the OIE.

2.12 Synthesis of Evidence

Work continued on harmonization of reporting guidelines through the ICLAS harmonization committee as a follow up to the 2011 Montréal Declaration on the synthesis of evidence. The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director was invited to Co-Chair Theme 3 3Rs in academia and education for the 9th World Congress on Alternatives and Animal use in the Life Sciences with Professor Monika Schaefer-Korting, First Vice President of the Free University Berlin. This Theme will include a discussion on the progress made with implementation of the Montréal Declaration.

Agreement was reached with Dr. David Moher at Ottawa Hospital Research Network to find funds to support a register of systematic reviews of pre-clinical studies.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director attended Cochrane Collaboration Congress in Quebec City September 20-21, 2013 with Dr Marc Avey (former CCAC research fellow). Agreement was reached among those present, including: the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute; University of Edinburgh and Melbourne ([CAMARADES](#)); Radboud University ([SYRCLE](#)), to form a methods group to support systematic reviews of animal-based studies.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director was invited to contribute to a paper on systematic review, meta-analysis and reporting guidelines for the Journal of the American Association of Laboratory Animal Science (submission deadline January 2014).

2.13 Best Practice Information & Three Rs Microsite

Regular review of the scientific literature continued, with best practice information captured into a CCAC reference database made available on the Three Rs microsite. Weekly updates to the Three Rs microsite homepage "News & Publications" continued and a prototype Alternatives Forum was created. A unique document style for Three Rs microsite publications was developed.

The Animal Resource Sharing (formerly Tissue Sharing) report, *Best Practice Recommendations for Facilitating Sharing of Animals and Animal Tissues*, is being re-worked into a short discussion paper and a best practices document for publication on the Three Rs Microsite.

2.14 Three Rs and Testing

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director attended the Institute for In vitro Sciences and Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine workshop on Inhalation Toxicity: Pathways to Better Methods, held May 1-3, 2013 in Washington DC, and the Johns Hopkins University Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing Symposium on Systemic Toxicity, held May 30-31, 2013.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director identified participants from academia, industry and Health Canada for the NC3Rs-led working group on the Fixed Dose procedure for inhalation toxicity testing. Dr. Griffin attended a meeting of this working group on November 19, 2013 by teleconference, and continues to interface with Health Canada to encourage data sharing and collaboration in the project.

The Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director met with Dr. Tim Singer, Director, Environmental Health Science and Research, Health Canada on August 28, 2013 to talk about the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) test guidelines, and Canada's involvement in the International Committee on Alternative Test Methods.

2.15 Fellowship in Animal Policy Development

A survey of relevant stakeholders was carried out and formed part of a report evaluating the Fellowship Program.

Dr. Marc Avey, the 6th CCAC Research Fellow in Animal Policy Development, completed his fellowship in September, 2013. Dr. Avey completed the online survey of pedagogical merit review and analyzed the results. A report on the pedagogical merit review project is in preparation and will be submitted to the Standards Committee when finalized. This report will also be re-worked and formatted for peer-review publication.

Dr. Avey has started a new fellowship at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute funded through a CIHR post-doctoral fellowship award. Dr. Avey will be co-supervised by Dr. Gilly Griffin, Guidelines and Three Rs Programs Director, as his work is a continuation of projects initiated while at the CCAC exploring publication bias and reporting guidelines in preclinical research.

A draft paper based on the interview research of the 5th CCAC fellow, Ms. Shannon Duffus, has been completed. This paper will report the results of her investigation into veterinarian and investigator perspectives on animal pain and analgesic practices. Another draft paper based on a web-based study to examine public attitudes toward the use of animals in research, conducted in collaboration with Dr. Elisabeth Ormandy and Dr. Daniel Weary from the University of British Columbia (UBC), is in preparation.

3. Education, Training and Communications

3.1 Training and Education

Following the last Council meeting, the Education, Training and Communication (ETC) Committee and Sector were informed that as of April 1, 2013, all activities related to training were to be put on hold unless they could be made self-sustaining.

These activities included the revision of existing training modules as well as the development of new training modules, with the exception of the training modules on poultry and fish. Other activities put on hold included the CCAC National Workshop 2013 and webinars.

3.1.1 National Institutional Animal User Training (NIAUT) Program

Work has continued on training modules on fish and poultry as these two modules were which were already under development by external contractors. The training module on poultry is now being finalized. It was reviewed externally by ten experts from the following seven institutions:

- University of Manitoba
- University of Guelph
- Canadian Food Inspection Agency
- University of Alberta
- Nova Scotia Agricultural College
- University of Saskatchewan
- Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

The training module on fish has gone through its first external review where comments as well as useful photos to supplement the module were received by seven experts from six different institutions. These institutions include:

- University of Guelph
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- University of Prince Edward Island
- University of New Brunswick
- University of British Columbia
- Memorial University of Newfoundland

3.1.2 CCAC National Workshop

As a result of training and education activities being put on hold, the CCAC National Workshop 2013 did not take place. In order for the CCAC to continue to deliver its annual workshop, all direct and indirect costs (e.g., staff time and overhead) must be cost-recoverable.

In an attempt to make the CCAC National Workshop available to its constituents, the CCAC has been in communications with CALAS regarding a possible joint workshop in June 2014 where many of the expenses would be covered off or reduced through this collaboration. The CCAC has worked on altering its agenda format and has looked at various budgets, scenarios and cost-reducing measures in order to be able to once again offer this workshop.

3.2 Communications

While most of the training activities were put on hold, the ETC Sector staff focused its energy and resources on communication initiatives and was heavily involved in various aspects of the CCAC consultations and transition processes.

3.2.1 CCAC Consultations

National Poll

A random survey of 1,000 Canadians was conducted by National Nanos RDD Crowdsourcing between June 8th and 11th, 2013^[1].

Approximately 60% of individuals polled accepted the potential suffering of animals involved in scientific procedures, whether for biomedical research, testing or teaching. However, 54% of individuals stated that the welfare of the animals is an important determinant in deciding whether the use of animals is acceptable.

Stakeholder Consultations

All members of the ETC Sector staff were involved in the national stakeholder engagement process launched by CCAC in September 2013 to gather broad and targeted input from its stakeholders. The three-phased initiative engagement process involved an online Choicebook™ (completed by 495 participants), four webconferences (engaging 48 participants from all sectors) and an in-person workshop which was held on October 24th, 2013 and involved 20 participants representing various stakeholder groups.

A report summarizing the key findings from all the three phases is currently being drafted and will be made available following the Council Meeting.

3.2.2 Websites

The ETC Sector ensured the maintenance and regular content update of the CCAC website. It is currently working on the initial stages of a website redesign which includes a new homepage with entrance buttons targeting specific audiences. The ETC Sector also regularly collaborated with the Three Rs Sector in regards to maintenance, translation and uploading content to the Three Rs Microsite.

Media Relations

Representatives from the CCAC have been interviewed, mentioned and/or quoted in several media since the previous Council meeting. The ETC Sector staff has coordinated media interviews, produced media lines and key messages, provided background and follow-up information to reporters and/or provided media training to other staff members or members of the Executive Committee for the following interviews/news items.

March 18, 2013: Gilly Griffin, answered a Q&A with Langara College for their newsletter “The Voice” regarding animal testing.

March 18, 2013: The ETC Coordinator provided media lines and key messages to Dr. Mark Torchia (then Vice Chair of CCAC Board of Director) for a radio interview which aired on CJOB Radio Winnipeg.

^[1] Participants were randomly recruited by telephone and administered a survey online. The results were statistically checked and weighted using the latest Census data. The margin of error for a random survey of 1,000 Canadians is ±3.1%, 19 times out of 20.

March 19, 2013: “Europe’s ban on animal testing for cosmetics could affect Canadian industry”
<http://o.canada.com/news/national/europes-ban-on-animal-testing-for-cosmetics-could-affect-canadian-industry/>

April 2013: The ETC staff provided information on the use of opossums in medical research to a reporter developing a documentary which was to be submitted for the program Nature of Things on CBC.

July 31, 2013: “Animal testing failures put drug trial volunteers in danger”
<http://www.rsc.org/chemistryworld/2013/07/failures-animal-testing-put-drug-trial-volunteers-danger> (Quote from Marc Avey, Research Fellow)

May 26, 2013: “Overseas advice: 'Don't test party pills on animals”
<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/8718122/Overseas-advice-Don-t-test-party-pills-on-animals> (Quote from Nicole Fenwick, Three Rs Program Coordinator)

July 12, 2013: The CBC radio show *Pas de midi sans info* covered the US ban on using chimpanzees in research. The CCAC was mentioned and quoted starting at the 46:40 mark: <http://www.radio-canada.ca/widgets/mediaconsole/medianet/6758967>

August 9, 2013: Provided information, key messages and media relation statements for Carleton University’s “Open the Cages” tour.

Since the last Council meeting, the following news items featured mentions of the CCAC:

- **March 14, 2013:** “Theralase achieves commercialization milestone for its bladder cancer therapy”
<http://www.baystreet.ca/viewarticle.aspx?id=402266>
- April 3, 2013:** “Of mice and men – The dilemma of animal research”
<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/04/of-mice-and-men/>
- April 16, 2013:** “Animal justice calls on canadian military to end animal use in training”
<http://blogs.montrealgazette.com/2013/04/16/animal-justice-calls-on-canadian-military-to-end-animal-use-in-training/>
- May 19, 2013:** “Four scientists tally the cost of science funding cuts”
http://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2013/05/19/four_scientists_tally_the_cost_of_science_funding_cuts.html
- May 19, 2013:** “Montreal animal advocates protest at L'Oreal Warehouse Sale”
<http://www.examiner.com/article/montreal-animal-advocates-protest-at-l-oreal-warehouse-sale>
- May 27, 2013:** “Serving patients to pharma: The need for critical investigation into industry-funded clinical trials”
<http://www.mcgilldaily.com/2013/05/serving-patients-to-pharma/>
- July 23, 2013:** “Military uses thousands of live animals every year for training, testing”:
<http://www.canada.com/news/Military+uses+thousands+live+animals+every+year+training+testing/8698068/story.html>
- July 24, 2013:** “Manitoba Conservation changes rules after Bambi killed at Hutterite colony”
<http://www.theprovince.com/news/Manitoba+Conservation+changes+rules+after+Bambi+killed/8696997/story.html>

July 24, 2013: “Shooting orphaned wildlife last resort”
<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/local/shooting-orphaned-wildlife-last-resort-216712101.html>

July 26, 2013: “New protocols for conservation officers introduced”
<http://www.mysteinbach.ca/newsblog/21401.html>

Information Capsules

The following six email information capsules were sent in both English and French, and one French information capsule were sent to constituents between April 1, 2013 and October 31, 2013:

May 3, 2013: [REMINDER: Review of the revised CCAC guidelines on: institutional animal user training](#)

July 18, 2013: [Letter from the Chair of the Board and the Executive Director: An Update on the CCAC](#)

September 5, 2013: [Achieving a Sustainable Future for the CCAC - Part 1: Stakeholder Engagement Choicebook](#)

September 12, 2013: [REMINDER: Achieving a Sustainable Future for the CCAC - Part 1: Stakeholder Engagement Choicebook](#)

September 18, 2013: [DEADLINE EXTENDED: Achieving a Sustainable Future for the CCAC - Part 1: Stakeholder Engagement Choicebook](#)

September 23, 2013: [A New Resource: the Community Representative Online Forum](#)

October 1, 2013: Première édition du Congrès vétérinaire québécois - 7 au 9 novembre

Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Mark Torchia
Chair of Council, CCAC
November 28, 2013