



Canadian Council on Animal Care
Conseil canadien de protection des animaux

Annual Report

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CHAIR'S REPORT

A. Changes at CCAC

Fiscal year 2002–2003 was marked by efforts to increase the capacity of the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) to adapt to new research realities. These efforts are being undertaken in all CCAC sectors of activity, as illustrated in Section C of this report and in the Executive Director's report.

On April 1, 2002, Dr Michael Baar, D.V.M., joined the Assessment Sector as Assessment Director; after an initial training period, he began conducting assessment visits independently in September 2002. As of January 3, 2003, Ms Marie Bédard, M.Sc., formerly Director of Assessment Communications, has been promoted to the position of Assessment Director, with the unanimous approval of members of the CCAC Board of Directors.

On March 25, 2002, Ms Mireille Desrosiers resigned from her position as Editorial Assistant to Assessments and joined the federal civil service. The position was upgraded to that of Science Writer and advertised during the summer of 2002. The Selection Committee's first choice, Ms Maryse Dansereau, joined the Assessment Sector effective September 3, 2002. She has a solid background in science writing and in the care and use of a wide variety of animal species. She was promoted to the position of Acting Assessment Coordinator as of January 2, 2003 and became Assessment Coordinator effective April 1, 2003.

On March 22, 2002, Mrs Laura Roach resigned from her position as Publishing and Technology Coordinator, after 13 years of dedicated services to the CCAC, in order to move to a career opportunity with an Ottawa-based academic institution. The position was upgraded to Publications Coordinator and, at the unanimous recommendation of the Selection Committee, Ms Nadine Belzile, former Assessment Coordinator, accepted the promotion effective September 3, 2002.

On January 6, 2003, Mr Guy Deschambeault became Acting Director of Communications and Education upon recommendation of the Selection Committee, which reviewed 70 applications received following the advertisement of the position in national media. On February 17, 2003, Mr Paul Johnson became Acting Technical Assistant to the Assessment Sector following the recommendation of the Selection Committee, which interviewed four candidates from the over 100 applications received.

In addition to these changes to the Secretariat, I am pleased to report that CCAC has been able to launch, on March 31, 2003, the third component of its Institutional Animal User Training Program as a series of 12 modules that are available to all those institutions who wish to use some or all of the modules to build or complement their institutional animal user training program. We are particularly grateful to the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC), who generously provided financial support for the development of the modules which allowed the CCAC to make this training resource available to all institutions free of charge in a number of different formats.

B. Structure and Policies of the CCAC Council

1. Review of the Size and Structure of Council

The Canadian Animal Health Institute joined the CCAC Council as its first limited-term member effective April 1, 2002. The Planning and Priorities Committee continues to encourage suggestions from the Standing

Committees as to the areas of expertise needed on Council. There are a total of three limited-term memberships available on Council for that purpose.

2. Policy and Procedures of Council

Council approved the *CCAC Policy on: Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest for Representatives and Observers of Member Organizations on Council and ad hoc Committee Members* and the *CCAC Policy on: Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest for Members of CCAC Assessment Panels and Members of CCAC Assessment Committee* on October 5, 2002. Council members have been asked to sign the document and the Assessment Sector has started requesting signatures from panel members. A similar document has been signed by all members of the CCAC Secretariat.

Council approved amendments to article 29 of the *CCAC By-Laws* on October 5, 2002 in order to increase the pool of eligible candidates to Vice-Chair, which now includes those individuals whose remaining term on Council will end before they can complete their rotation as Chair and Past-Chair.

On the same day, Council approved revision to the *Standing Rules* to clarify the voting rights of *ex officio* members on Standing Committees. The *Standing Rules* now identify Council members as voting *ex officio* members of Standing Committees and Secretariat members as non-voting *ex officio* members.

Two Council members retired in March 2002 after reaching the end of their term. As per the *CCAC Policy on: Volunteer Procedures*, letters of appreciation were sent to their employers and member organizations which they represented. Feedback received from the immediate Past-Chair of Council, Dr Howard Dickson, was shared with Council members at his request. Input continues to be sought from those retiring from Council.

C. Universality, Harmonization and Recognition of CCAC Standards

1. At the National Level

- *Bill C-10B (formerly Bill C-15B), An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Cruelty to Animals)*

The CCAC Executive Director was invited to participate in a meeting with Senator Yves Morin and the President of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC), Mr Robert Giroux, on March 12, 2002 to explain CCAC's position on Bill C-15B. Dr Gauthier was invited by Senator Morin to participate in a follow-up 90-minute meeting involving officials of Justice Canada (Ms Karen Markham, Counsel, Courts and Tribunal Policy, Department of Judicial Affairs; and Ms Chantal Proulx, Departmental Policy Advisor, Department of Minister's Office), a representative of CIHR (Ms Patricia Kosseim) and a representative of AUCC (Dr Pierre Lachapelle), in the afternoon of April 16, 2002, followed by a 30-minute meeting with all of the above and the Minister of Justice, the Hon. Martin Cauchon. Arguments were presented in support of the only recommendation made by CCAC, that is to make reference to CCAC standards in the regulations to the Act. While Minister Cauchon appeared receptive, he remained non-committal.

In early June 2002, CCAC was invited by the Clerk of the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs to appear before the Committee on June 12, 2002. The CCAC Executive Director drafted a brief consistent with CCAC's Position Statement in the matter, which was reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. The Bill proceeded to second reading in the House of Commons just before summer recess; as a result, study by the Senate Committee was postponed until fall. While CCAC was prepared to appear before the Committee in mid-September 2002, Parliament's session was prorogued effective September 16, 2002.

The former Bill C-15B resurfaced from the House of Commons at the beginning of the new Parliamentary session and was sent back to be studied by the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs as Bill C-10B in late October 2002. The Government indicated to the Senate that amendments to the Bill would not be welcomed. As a result, the CCAC Board of Directors decided in mid-November 2002 that having CCAC's standards used by investigatory and prosecutorial bodies in the interpretation and application of sections 182.2 and 182.3 would more likely be achieved through the following recommendation:

“It is recommended that the Minister and Department of Justice consider means, such as the issuance of Guidelines or other directives, by which it can be communicated to the scientific sector and adopted amongst investigatory and prosecutorial bodies that 1) compliance with the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) standards will not amount to an offence under sections 182.2 and 182.3 of an amended Criminal Code and 2) the CCAC *Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals* as supplemented by the other published guidelines and policies shall be referred to and considered in the interpretation and application of these provisions where using animals for scientific purposes is involved.”

On November 18, 2002, the CCAC Executive Director attended a meeting called by Senator Morin with two officials of Justice Canada to explain CCAC's revised recommendation in relation with existing precedents for the publication of such directives by Justice Canada. In his November 20, 2002 opening presentation to the Senate Committee on Bill C-10B, the Minister of Justice stated:

“I wish to state clearly, for the record, that I am confident that in any case that comes before a court in respect of one of these industries, the court will take into account the applicable standards and guidelines. For example, the guidelines developed by the Canadian Council on Animal Care provide a crucial reference point in the context of animal research and teaching.”

On December 11, 2002, CCAC appeared before the Senate Committee as part of a roundtable involving representatives from the AUCC and CIHR; CCAC's brief to the Senate Committee is posted under the “What's New” section of the CCAC website at <http://www.ccac.ca>. The most constructive part of the exchanges related to a series of questions raised by Senator Serge Joyal that provided an opportunity to expose the value and the need to reference CCAC standards as guidance for the courts. As part of those discussions, the Senior Ethics Policy Advisor of CIHR, who is also a lawyer, presented the CCAC proposal as a creative and complementary mechanism consistent with the objectives of the bill. Another positive outcome has been a request by Senator Joyal, with the agreement of the Chair of the Committee, that volume 1 of the CCAC *Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals* be forwarded to all senators. On December 18, 2002, a letter was sent to the Chair of the Committee and forwarded to all 30 members of the Committee with a copy of the CCAC *Guide*, quoting the following excerpts from Senator Joyal's remarks:

“I would like it [CCAC *Guide*] to be circulated to all honourable senators, because I believe it is an important element that is not well-recognized by the Canadian public. Researchers have some kind of code of ethics in relation to research on animals. I believe it will become increasingly important to have that clearly recognized in legislation.”

(<http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/Com-e/lega-e/05eva-e.htm>)

The President of the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS), Mr David Buffet, appeared before the Senate Committee on December 12, 2002. Responding to a question from Senator Joyal, he also expressed strong support for CCAC's standards in the following terms:

“Perhaps the best indicia of ‘acceptable and appropriate’ would be the CCAC guidelines, which anyone could look to for guidance. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies does not rail against scientific research. In fact, it participates vigorously with an organization called the Canadian Council on Animal Care, CCAC, and we have representatives on that

body. We [CFHS] cannot be perceived as speaking against scientific research; we endorse it; and we participate in evaluating it, from an assessment point of view.”

(<http://www.parl.gc.ca/37/2/parlbus/commbus/senate/Com-e/lega-e/05evb-e.htm>)

On February 6, 2003, the Clerk of the Senate Committee requested CCAC’s assistance in identifying competent scientists to address the issue of pain assessment in animals in view of the proposed definition of ‘animal’ appearing in Bill C-10B which states that “animal means a vertebrate, other than human being, and any other animal that has the capacity to feel pain”. A world expert in the field of pain assessment in animals and former Dean of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr Alexander Livingston, and Dr Shelly Adamo, an invertebrate zoologist and animal behavior scientist conducting research on pain in invertebrates at the Department of Psychology, Dalhousie University, were identified in consultation with the CCAC Board of Directors and CCAC Staff. They both gave presentations that were highly praised by the many senators attending their February 12, 2003 presentations. They clarified that invertebrates cannot feel pain as they do not possess the highly specialized brain needed to perform such function in that they miss the essential structure associated with pain perception: a cerebral cortex. At the request of Senator Morin, the CCAC Executive Director was invited by the Chair of the Committee to participate in the last 30 minutes of this 90-minute presentation in relation with the definition of ‘pain’, ‘distress’ and ‘suffering’ and in providing further details on the CCAC system. Senators were pleased with the outcome as confirmed by the following comments received on the next day from Ms Marcy Zlotnick, Clerk of the Senate Committee:

“I also wanted to thank you again for finding us such dynamic and knowledgeable witnesses. I know that you must have gone to quite a bit of trouble to put the panel together, especially since we gave you so little time. I have had no end of positive feedback on how interesting and helpful the presentations were. Your efforts were very much appreciated by the committee and by me.”

- *Regulations to Provincial Legislations*

British Columbia — At a March 5, 2002 meeting between the newly appointed Minister of Agriculture and representatives of the British Columbia (BC) SPCA, Dr David Wooldridge (Past-President of the BC SPCA and one of three representatives of the CFHS on CCAC Council) tabled a one-pager summarizing the situation in other provinces regarding reference to CCAC’s standards and concluding in the following terms:

“This is a preliminary request for an urgent meeting between your Ministry, the CCAC and the BC SPCA to review in depth this important animal welfare issue and to effect changes in the Provincial SPCA Act. It is our belief that Regulations under the Act (as in Manitoba) can be relatively easily changed to enhance the care of animals in research without adversely affecting the outcome of the research initiatives.”

With the assistance of Dr Wooldridge, a meeting was organized in Vancouver on December 2, 2002 between the CCAC Executive Director, Dr William Milsom (University of British Columbia (UBC) scientist and CCAC Council member) and representatives of the BC SPCA (Kim Capri, Chief Executive Officer; Craig Naherniak, General Manager of Humane Education; and Craig Daniell, General Manager of Cruelty Investigations), regarding an action plan to achieve progress in having reference made to CCAC standards in section 24(2) of the Provincial SPCA Act. It was agreed that Mr Daniell would identify bureaucrats in charge and rally the support of the BC SPCA members for this initiative, while Dr Eric Jamieson (UBC scientist) would do the same with the scientific community at UBC through the local animal care committee. The CCAC Executive Director forwarded draft regulations that could be used in relation with article 24(2) of the Act. An agreement was reached for an action timeframe of six months.

Saskatchewan — Communications between CCAC and veterinarians at the University of Saskatchewan intensified in early September 2002 in view of the review of the regulations to the *Saskatchewan’s Animal*

Protection Act (1999) starting in 2003. It is expected that wording can be used to include all animal use in research establishments, with CCAC guidelines as the standard.

- **Health Canada – Veterinary Drugs**

The Executive Director represented CCAC at the First Workshop with Stakeholders organized by the Veterinary Drugs Directorate (VDD) on February 7, 2002, and was subsequently invited to nominate a candidate to be considered for appointment on the major outcome of the Workshop: a VDD Stakeholder Committee. CCAC's nominee, Dr Baar, was confirmed as a member in the Committee on July 30, 2002. Dr Gauthier acted as substitute for Dr Baar at the first meeting of the Committee, held on September 26 and 27, 2002, when animal welfare was one of the four issues prioritized for action.

- **Environment Canada – Biotechnology**

On September 4, 2002, Environment Canada issued a New Substances Advisory Note explaining that research animals are exempt from the requirements of the New Substances Notification Regulations of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (1999), providing that they are properly contained. The last section of the note on the requirements states:

“The handling and care of experimental animals should be in accordance with the recommendations outlined in the Guide to the Care of Experimental Animals, published by the Canadian Council on Animal Care (<http://www.ccac.ca>) and as amended from time to time.” (<http://www.ec.gc.ca/substances/>)

2. At the International Level

ICLAS-CCAC International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare (ISRTAW) — The proceedings of the International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)-CCAC ISRTAW were published in June 2002 as a special supplement to volume 43 of the *ILAR Journal*, a publication of the US National Research Council. This exercise, begun in 1999, has been a success in reaching the set objectives and in closing its operations with a \$4,000 surplus. In late August 2002, members of the International Organizing Committee voted in favor of the recommendation by the CCAC Executive Director to use this surplus to support a follow-up scientific session on best practices to be held in Quebec City as part of the Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) Annual Symposium in 2003.

Another evidence that the ICLAS-CCAC ISRTAW is a milestone for future improvements is the fact that 15 of the 17 papers presented at the Symposium and published in the *ILAR Journal* have been provided as background material to hundreds of participants at the March 30–April 1, 2003 US Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research (PRIM&R) conference “IACUC Actions: Making Ethically and Scientifically Informed Decision”.

Fourth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences — The CCAC Executive Director has been active on the Organizing Committee of this congress for the past three years in relation with policy and ethics. The Congress, held in New Orleans on August 11–15, 2002, brought together over 600 representatives from 34 countries. Dr Gauthier co-chaired the seminar on “Animal Numbers and Trends from Around the World” and gave a presentation entitled “Overview and Analysis of Animal Use in North America”. He also joined the CCAC Director of Guidelines Development, Dr Gilly Griffin, and Dr Bill Stokes of the National Institute of Environmental Health Science (NIEHS), the two co-editors of the special edition of the *ILAR Journal* described above, in presenting a workshop entitled “Report from the ICLAS-CCAC International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare”. Dr Griffin also gave a presentation on the “Incorporation of the Three R’s in Wildlife Research” as part of a seminar on “Research on Animals for

Animal Benefit”. These three presentations will be published by the UK *Alternatives to Laboratory Animals (ATLA)* journal.

Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research — The CCAC Executive Director attended the annual conference sponsored by PRIM&R on “Decisions on Animal Care and Use: Dealing with Differences” in Boston, MA on March 24–26, 2002. PRIM&R is the prime forum for interface between stakeholders interested in the ethical use of humans and animals in the US.

World Veterinary Congress — In addition to continuing to perform his duties as Secretary General of ICLAS and representative of the CCAC on ICLAS, Dr Gilles Demers, CCAC Assessment Director, was invited as keynote speaker to give two presentations, one on “Pain Management & Ethics” and the other on “Laboratory Animals”, at the World Veterinary Congress in Tunis, Tunisia, on September 25–29, 2002. This meeting, the most important veterinary meeting in the world, is held once every four years. Dr Demers’s presentation will be published in the proceedings of the congress.

American Association for Laboratory Animal Science — The Executive Director represented CCAC at the October 27–31, 2002 AALAS National Meeting in San Antonio, TX. Dr Gauthier gave a presentation on “Training and Compliance Programs in Canada” as part of a seminar on the “Comparison of Training and Compliance Programs in Latin America and North America”, and presented the CCAC’s annual report at the October 29, 2002 International Consortium Meeting. Dr Demers also participated in a seminar on “Ethics Committees and Regulations in Latin America and North America”.

D. Conclusion

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to members of Council and to the CCAC Secretariat for their support and assistance during my term as Chair of Council. With the renewal and significant increase of our CIHR-NSERC funding, the implementation of the National Institutional Animal User Training Program, the publication of the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife*, the growth of the Assessment Sector and the numerous other changes at the Secretariat, this has been a most exciting, positive and productive time in the life of the CCAC. I am pleased and honored to have had an opportunity to work with the Secretariat, the members of Council and especially all those hard at work on all the Standing Committees.

I also wish to pay tribute to the many CCAC volunteers, without whose dedication and generous contributions of time and effort the CCAC would not exist. The names of many of the scientists, veterinary experts and community representatives who made the work of the Assessment, Guidelines Development, and Education and Training Programs possible in 2002–2003 are listed in Appendices II–VII. While it is impossible to list the approximately 2,000 members of the more than 220 institutional animal care committees across the country, I also want to sincerely thank each of these individuals for their essential contributions to the Canadian system of oversight of animal care and use.

Luc-Alain Giraldeau, Ph.D.
Chair, CCAC
March 2003

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Results by Business Line

1. Assessments

Fifty-three full assessment visits and 27 special/initial/orientation visits were completed between April 1, 2002 and March 31, 2003, and all planned assessment visits were conducted. The estimated total cost for the year was within the amount budgeted for the academic, private and government sectors.

Two new participants from the academic sector and four new participants from the private sector have joined the CCAC Program since April 1, 2002.

Two Consulting Assessment Directors, former Chairs of the CCAC and the Assessment Committee, have conducted six assessment visits since April 1, 2002.

Following the implementation of the October 2001 action plan to overcome the backlog in assessment report production and responses to implementation reports, assessment report production is now back within the 10-week deadline (from the day of the assessment until the day the final report is sent to the institution), and the backlog in responses to implementation reports is being successfully cleared. Several crucial elements have been put in place to ensure that assessment services can be provided promptly, consistently and in a sustainable manner:

- A Science Writer, Ms Dansereau, was hired on September 3, 2002 to work on assessment reports and assessment correspondence. Ms Dansereau has a solid background in scientific writing and in the care and use of a wide variety of species. She has a M.Sc. in epidemiology as well as a diploma in Animal Health Technology.
- During his training period in the spring of 2002, Dr Baar was shown all aspects of the assessment process, including the elements necessary for the production of sound and complete assessment report drafts.
- The format of assessment reports was reduced to a letter accompanied by the relevant recommendations and commendations in March 2002. This flexible format is working well, allowing the CCAC to provide more information where there are serious difficulties to be addressed and a short report with commendations where the institutional program is appropriate. With the considerable number of reports now produced in this format, there are good templates available for most types of institutions and animal care and use programs, which further reduces the time and effort necessary for report writing.
- The *Animal Care and Use Program Review Form*, a form that institutions now volunteer to use to self-evaluate their programs, continues to be validated and refined by the Assessment Sector before it is implemented on a systematic basis. The information recorded by institutions in this form is used as structured, detailed pre-assessment documentation. Assessment visits and reports are gradually being further streamlined as the use of the form becomes more widespread, to highlight and validate the self-assessment work accomplished by institutions, and to focus the CCAC's assessment resources on problem areas.
- A third Assessment Director, Ms Bédard, was hired early January 2003.

A database designer has developed a comprehensive system to keep track of CCAC constituents, collaborators and other contacts, as well as of assessment related events and materials. This database should increase the

effectiveness of the Assessment Program. A Technical Assistant to the Assessment Sector, Mr Johnson, has been hired effective February 17, 2003, to work on the data entry and management of the CCAC contact database and the *Animal Use Data Form* (AUDF) database, as well as to maintain the CCAC website in collaboration with the Director of Communications and Education.

The CCAC *Survey of Animal Use—2000* was published late February 2003 on the website and in *RESOURCE*. A joint CCAC–CFHS document to provide information to community representatives is being drafted and will be published in 2003.

EVALUATION OF CLIENT SATISFACTION	
	April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003
General impression of the assessment visit	4.4 (/5)
Satisfaction with selection and preparation of panel members	4.4
Satisfaction with interactions between panel and institution	4.6
Satisfaction with respect given to institutional perspective	4.4

2. Guidelines Development

- *Development Process*

The list of guidelines under development are now prioritized into three strata. This has facilitated the management of the list, with most attention being placed on the guidelines under Strata 1 (laboratory animal facilities; care and use fish; care and maintenance of marine mammals). As the *CCAC guidelines on: antibody production* document was published in March 2002, it has been removed from the list. The development of *CCAC guidelines on: the use of fish in research, teaching and testing* was moved from Strata 2 into Strata 1 and is receiving an increased level of Secretariat resources.

Council approved the publication of the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* on January 15, 2003. The guidelines will be available on the CCAC website and in print by June 2003. The *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing* remain on the cusp between Strata 1 and 2 as attention is also being placed on development of the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and maintenance of marine mammals*, in order to meet deadlines requested by Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Judicious use of resources is permitting reallocation of some monies towards face-to-face meetings for subcommittees involved in guidelines development. Face-to-face meetings continue to be valuable to make concrete progress in preparation of drafts. Face-to-face discussions are particularly useful in developing consensus on the provisions in the document, in particular where hard scientific evidence is lacking, and also serve to prepare the scientific community for the implementation of the guidelines. In order to make best use of limited resources, meetings of the marine mammals subcommittee, the fish subcommittee and with the Chair of the farm animal subcommittee were held in the Maritimes in late November 2002.

The proposal to offer post-doctoral fellowships in the area of guidelines development has been further explored by the Guidelines Committee. As a first step, monies will be sought through the CIHR and NSERC human

resource development envelope available to the CCAC to support a post-doctoral fellow to work on the background material for the *CCAC guidelines on: genetically-modified animals*.

Work to increase the visibility of CCAC guidelines amongst the scientific community is ongoing. This is achieved by selective involvement of CCAC personnel at scientific meetings. On June 13 and 14, 2002, Drs Gauthier and Griffin presented a poster on the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* and manned a booth at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (CFBS). A half-day session on the new *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* was also held at the 2002 CALAS Symposium in Edmonton, AB on June 23, 2002. On July 8 and 9, 2002, Dr Griffin and Ms Julie Dale, M.Sc., Research Assistant to Guidelines Development, presented a poster and manned a booth at the 9th International Behavioral Ecology Congress of the ISBE, held at l'Université du Québec à Montréal.

Harmonization of CCAC guidelines with other international initiatives continues to be a priority for the Guidelines Development Program. A paper, "Implementation of the Three Rs in Wildlife Research," was presented by Dr Griffin at the August 2002 Fourth World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences; it will shortly be published in the *ATLA* journal. The CCAC Director of Guidelines Development also gave a presentation on the development of the *guidelines on: the use of fish in research, teaching and testing* at the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare (UFAW) Meeting—Science in the Service of Animal Welfare held in Edinburgh, UK, April 2-4, 2003. Contact has been made with the US Federation of Animal Science Societies, in view of collaboration during the development of the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing*.

- **Activities in Relation to Guidelines Development**

Antibody production: The *CCAC guidelines on: antibody production* were published on the CCAC website in March 2002. Printed copies were made available in early summer 2002 to CCAC constituents and other interested parties. Supporting documentation (e.g., standard operating procedures, rapid immunization technique, FAQs) is being developed as a tool to assist in the implementation of the guidelines. Recognizing that the implementation of the guidelines is likely to incur additional expenses for investigators, CCAC wrote to CIHR and NSERC's Presidents on September 25, 2002 to request that potential grant applicants and grant review panels be informed that these additional expenses should be supported and that applicants should not be penalized for requesting additional funds in order to adopt procedures which meet higher ethical standards of research. An article to that effect was published in the January 2003 edition of the newsletter *NSERC Contact*.

Wildlife: Council approved the publication of the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* on January 15, 2003. The guidelines will be available on the CCAC website and in print by June 2003. In addition, on-going development of seven species-specific sections is occurring through consultation with experts. Two of the sections have been finalized and will be translated and posted on the CCAC website within the same time-frame as the *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife*.

Laboratory animal facilities: The second draft of the *CCAC guidelines on: the design and development of laboratory animal facilities* was posted on the website for widespread review June 21–September 6, 2002. Responses were received from 11 individuals. The final draft of the *CCAC guidelines on: the design and development of laboratory animal facilities* has been completed by consultants Drs Donald McKay and David Neil, and is currently being reviewed by the Facilities Standards Subcommittee.

Fish: A first draft of the *CCAC guidelines on: the use of fish in research, teaching and testing* was circulated for expert review June 25–August 30, 2002. Responses were received from 20 experts. In addition, the final draft of the *Guidelines for the Use of Fishes in Research*, developed by representatives of the American Fisheries Society, the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists and the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists, and the draft guidelines proposed by the Eurogroup for Animal Welfare as

a starting point for the Council of Europe Expert Working Group on Fish, have been analyzed by the subcommittee on fish.

A face-to-face meeting was held November 19–20, 2002 in Halifax to prepare the second draft. This is currently undergoing finalization through the use of a CCAC intranet site.

Farm animals: The Director of Guidelines Development attended the meeting of the Expert Committee on Farm Animal Welfare and Behaviour held in Truro, NS on June 7–8, 2002. Immediately prior to the meeting, a one-day conference was held to consider Canada's voluntary codes of practice for the care and handling of farm animals. This was followed-up in Edmonton at a one-day workshop sponsored by Alberta Farm Animal Care at the CALAS June 23, 2002 Symposium.

The Director of Guidelines Development attended the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) animal welfare coordinating committee consultation on the future of the Codes of Practice for the care and handling of farm animals, held September 23–24, 2002 in Ottawa. The outcome of the consultation (http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/apf/pdf/consultanim_e.pdf) will be useful to the CCAC in the development of the *CCAC guidelines on: the use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing*. The Director of Guidelines Development had contributed to the development of the Codes of Practice for the care and handling of poultry (eggs); poultry (meat); and goats during the past year. Each of these Codes now makes reference to compliance with CCAC guidelines and policies a requirement for institutions holding flocks or herds for research purposes. The Chair of the subcommittee and the Director of Guidelines Development met in Halifax on November 21, 2002 to further develop the preliminary draft of the CCAC guidelines.

Marine mammals: A subcommittee of 9 members has been established. An expanded outline has been produced and approved by subcommittee members who were tasked with preparing various sections of the preliminary first draft. A face-to-face meeting of the subcommittee was held November 16–17, 2002, in St. Andrews, NB. A preliminary draft has been prepared and is being further refined using a CCAC intranet site.

- *Other Activities in Relation to Guidelines Development*

Biotechnology: Following a number of confusions relating to the creation or importation of genetically-modified organisms, Environment Canada has issued a Notice of Advice to explain that research animals are exempt from the requirements of the New Substances Notification Regulations of the *Canadian Environmental Protection Act* (1999), providing that they are properly contained. As part of the notice of advice, Environment Canada points to the need to comply with the *CCAC Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals*.

3. Education and Training

- *National Institutional Animal User Training (NIAUT) Program*

Dr Howard Dickson was hired as Project Manager and Chair of the Core Components Working Group (CCWG) of the Education and Training Committee in September 2002 for a period of seven months to coordinate the development and the implementation of the Web-based material for the Core Topics of the *Recommended Syllabus* (1999). The membership of the CCWG was expanded from 8 to 37 members committed to review groups of four modules along a production schedule agreed to on September 23, 2002, with the first module scheduled to be sent to the CCWG on September 30, 2002 and the last module to be ready for distribution on March 30, 2003.

A meeting of the CCWG was held at Dalhousie University on May 17, 2002, followed by the joint Atlantic Provinces Council on the Sciences (APICS)-CCAC workshop on the same theme. Electronic information

capsules have been sent on May 2, July 3 and December 20, 2002 and March 31, 2003 to update constituents on the NIAUT Program.

Launch of the *CCAC Experimental Animal User Training Core Topics Modules !!!*

Two components of the NIAUT Program, the *CCAC guidelines on: institutional animal user training* and the *CCAC Recommended Syllabus for an Institutional Animal User Training Program*, were approved by CCAC Council on May 5, 1999 for mandatory implementation beginning January 2003. The third component of the NIAUT Program, based on the *Recommended Syllabus*, consists of a list of resource materials to support the development and implementation of the core and non-core topics of an institutional training program by animal care committee (ACC).

The CCAC launched the first of the resource materials, a series of twelve web-based modules covering the general core topics for all animal users and specific core topics for the Laboratory Animal/Teaching Stream of the *Recommended Syllabus*, on March 31, 2003 as planned.

Access — Serious concerns have been expressed by institutions regarding the \$45 fee per user for technical services required for the central delivery of the modules through WebCT platform as originally planned. In response, the CCAC Board of Directors decided that the modules will be available free of charge to everyone in the following two formats:

- (i) as HTML pages on the CCAC website (www.ccac.ca), and
- (ii) as a WebCT series of files available upon request (<mailto:ccac@ccac.ca>) to participating institutions licensed for WebCT 3.8.2 or other versions.

ACCs can integrate one or more of these modules within their own institutional training program as they see fit. A bank of questions and associated answers will be forwarded to ACCs upon request (<mailto:ccac@ccac.ca>), if they choose to use them for performance evaluation of the competency of their animal users.

The CCAC is grateful to all those who contributed to this important product, and looks forward to working with all those involved in animal care and use to promote high standards of animal care amongst all users in Canada.

- ***Workshops***

On May 18, 2002, a workshop was held on the National Animal User Training Program in Halifax, NS, in collaboration with APICS. The meeting brought together 45 individuals from various regions of Canada.

On June 13 and 14, 2002, Drs Gauthier and Griffin presented a poster and manned a booth at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (CFBS).

A CCAC Orientation Workshop for Animal Care Committee Members was held at the 2002 Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) Symposium in Edmonton, AB on June 23, 2002.

A half-day session on the new *CCAC guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* was also held at the 2002 CALAS Symposium on June 23, 2002.

On July 8–9, 2002, Dr Griffin and Ms Dale presented a poster and manned a booth at the 9th International Behavioral Ecology Congress of the ISBE, held at l'Université du Québec à Montréal.

B. Communication, Partnership and Linkages

1. Communications with Constituents and the Public

CCAC's first Director of Communications and Education, Mr Deschambeault, was appointed in early January 2003. A graduate in Communications from l'Université du Québec en Outaouais, he has experience in journalism and education. He has been producer for Radio-Canada as well as for private and learning television stations. In 1990, he received the Canadian Mental Health Association Media Award (Prix de journalisme Jean-Charles-Pagé) for a broadcast on mental health. His responsibilities include the planning of publications, relations with the media and the public, workshops and special events, and oversight of CCAC translations.

As a concrete measure to ensure greater accountability, CCAC published its 2001–2002 Annual Report on its website in the summer of 2002. An electronic version of the *CCAC Mid-Year Performance Report 2002-2003* and the *CCAC Year-End Performance Report 2002-2003* were forwarded to Council members in October 2002 and February 2003 respectively.

Info-capsules were forwarded to key CCAC stakeholders by email on the following subjects:

- *CCAC guidelines on: the design and development of laboratory animal facilities* (April 9, 2002);
- *APICS-CCAC Workshop* (April 24, 2002);
- *CCAC Training Program* (May 2, 2002);
- *Position available at CCAC — Director of Education and Communications* (May 6, 2002);
- *CCAC Website to announce positions available* (May 15, 2002);
- *Positions available at CCAC* (June 5, 2002);
- *CCAC Annual Report 2001/2002* (June 13, 2002);
- *Animal User Training Program* (July 3, 2002);
- *Appointment of a Third Assessment Director* (December 16, 2002);
- *CCAC WebCT Core Components Course* (December 20, 2002);
- *First CCAC Outstanding Service Award* (February 24, 2003);
- *CCAC Survey of Animal Use — 2000* (March 4, 2003);
- *Animal User Training in Science — Launch of the CCAC Core Topics Modules* (March 31, 2003).

The Winter edition of *RESOURCE* 26(1) was published in February 2003. Of particular note is the invited article of Dr Luc-Alain Giraldeau on “The Researcher: An Image in Need of Updating” and the publication of the *CCAC Animal Use Survey—2000*.

The CCAC website is now being regularly updated. The CCAC's December 11, 2002 position on Bill C-10B *Proposed Amendment to Cruelty to Animals Provisions under the Criminal Code* was posted, as well as a new personnel directory and the *CCAC Animal Use Survey—2000*.

- **Media**

On May 1, 2002, the *Vancouver Sun* published an article following an interview with Dr Gauthier entitled “Animal testing in Canada down 20 pct. since 1991”.

The special edition of the *ILAR Journal*, containing the proceedings of the ICLAS-CCAC International Symposium on Regulatory Testing and Animal Welfare held on June 21-23, 2001, was published in July 2002.

In July 2002, *L'Actualité* published an article incorporating an interview with the CCAC Executive Director, Dr Gauthier, and Dr Pierre Lachapelle, former Chair of the Education and Training Committee, entitled “Matelas pour les vaches, nids pour les souris de labo... Une révolution transforme le traitement réservé aux animaux. Va-t-on trop loin?”.

In its August-September 2002 edition, *University Affairs* published an article entitled “Animal cruelty changes now up to the Senate”, quoting comments from the CCAC Executive Director.

An article entitled “Des animaux pour la recherche: la fin justifie-t-elle les moyens?” was published in the November-December 2002 issue of *Découvrir*, the journal of l'Association francophone pour le savoir–Acfas. Dr Gauthier had been interviewed in August 2002 by the author of this article.

An article entitled “Animal Care Rules Changing” was published in the January 2003 issue of *NSERC Contact*, the newsletter of NSERC.

Contacts were provided by the CCAC to CBC Newsworld's *The Docket*. However, the producer of the show chose not to involve Dr Andrew Tasker, chair of the CCAC Education and Training Committee. Broadcasted on January 30, 2003, the show examined Bill C-10B.

The CBC *Disclosure* program "No safe Place " on the use of pound dogs in research was broadcasted on March 4, 2003. Excerpts from a one-hour interview with the CCAC Executive Director were used during the program.

2. Organizations Represented on the CCAC Council

Association of Canadian Medical Colleges (ACMC) — The Executive Director reported on CCAC activities to members of the ACMC Standing Committee on Research and Graduate Studies in Ottawa on November 9, 2002.

Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) — The Executive Director presented a digest of the *CCAC Annual Report 2001-2002* at the June 2, 2002 Annual Business Meeting of CFHS in Ottawa, and had his semi-annual meeting with the CFHS Executive Director on June 10, 2002. The CCAC Executive Director met with the CFHS Executive Director, Mr Robert vanTongerloo, and with Dr Wooldridge in Ottawa on October 16, 2002 regarding the use of animals for teaching at the high-school level.

Canadian Association for Laboratory Animal Science (CALAS) — The Executive Director represented CCAC at the March 1, 2002 meeting with the local organizing committee for the CALAS 2003 Symposium in Quebec City and at the June 21, 2002, September 28–29, 2002 and March 7, 2003 meetings of the CALAS Board of Directors.

Confederation of Canadian Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine (CCFAVM) — The Executive Director presented a digest of the *CCAC Annual Report 2001-2002* at the April 25, 2002 meeting of the Deans of Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine in Ottawa.

Health Canada (HC) — The Executive Director accepted the invitation of Health Canada's Ethics Division to participate in consultations entitled “Discussion on a Canadian System of Oversight for the Governance of Research Involving Human Subjects” held in Ottawa on April 18, 2002 and in Montreal, QC on May 24, 2002.

Federal Granting Agencies (CIHR, NSERC, SSHRC) Panel and Secretariat on Research Ethics — The CCAC former Director of Assessment Communications, Ms Bédard, met with the Policy Analyst and two colleagues from the Panel/Secretariat for three hours on February 27, 2002 to explain the CCAC Assessment Program, as a follow-up to a two-hour meeting between the Executive Director of the Panel/Secretariat, Mr Derek Jones, and the CCAC Executive Director held in early February 2002.

3. Other Organizations

National Council on Ethics in Human Research (NCEHR) — The Executive Director represented CCAC at the September 6, 2002 meeting of the NCEHR Council.

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) — CCAC has been a member of OMAFRA's Animal Research Act Advisory Committee since its inception in 2000. The CCAC Executive Director represented CCAC at the February 26, 2002 meeting of the Advisory Committee in Toronto, ON. The Committee recommended that OMAFRA modify its Animal Use Records form to harmonize with the CCAC *Animal Use Data Form* (AUDF). An Interpretation Bulletin on the AUDF, including specific instructions for Ontario constituents, was drafted for consideration by the CCAC Assessment Committee at their October 6, 2002 meeting. Collaboration with CCAC on emerging issues and on the use of several of the CCAC guidelines by OMAFRA have also been recommended by the Committee.

Clément Gauthier, Ph.D.
Executive Director, CCAC
March 2003