

Community Representatives:



THE VOICE OF THE CANADIAN PUBLIC



What is the Canadian Council on Animal Care?



- An autonomous and independent body created in 1968
- CCAC is a non-profit organization financed by Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
- CCAC is a quasi-regulatory body and sets standards on animal use in science that apply across Canada
- The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (CFHS) is founding member of the CCAC and has four representatives on CCAC Council

Animal Numbers



- In 2009, the CCAC oversaw the welfare of approximately 3.4 million animals used in science in Canada
- In 2010, 3,311,083 animals were used in research, teaching, testing and production of biological products for scientific purposes a slight decrease from 2009. This decrease was noted despite an increase in the number of institutions participating in the CCAC Program

Animal Numbers (continued)



- Fish continue to be the animals most commonly used in Canadian science, with 1,416,042 fish being used in 2010. Mice, at 1,132,706, are the second most used group of animals, followed by rats, domestic birds and wild Canadian animals

Fish, mice, rats, domestic birds and wild Canadian animals represent 93% of the total number of animals used

What/Who is a Community Representative?



- They come from various backgrounds: humane society members, business people, teachers and retirees
- They do not use animals for scientific research; nor do they need a scientific background
- The most important qualification: they must be actively interested in the care and use of animals and be willing to work with other members of the animal care and use programs

Where will you find Community Representatives?



- On CCAC Council
- On CCAC Assessment Panels
- On a local Animal Care Committee (ACC)



CCAC Council



- CCAC is comprised of 25 member organizations
- It has a board of directors
- It has five (5) Standing Committees: Assessment and Certification; Guidelines; Education, Training and Communications; Three Rs; and Planning and Finance. At least one representative from the CFHS must be on the Assessment and Certification Committee

Assessment Panels



- Assessment panels carry out visits to institutions participating in the CCAC programs
- When conducting a visit, the panel assesses the structure and resources of the animal care and use program, the composition, functioning and effectiveness of the animal care committee and the appropriateness of animal care and use practices, procedures and facilities

Assessment Panels (continued)



- Each assessment panel is composed of at least one scientist a veterinarian, and a community representative. A CCAC assessment director is present at every assessment visit as an ex officio member of the assessment panel
- Full assessment visits are conducted every three (3) years in order for the institution to maintain certification

Local Animal Care Committee



- CCAC requires all institutions conducting animal-based research, teaching or testing establish and Animal Care Committee. The ACC must be active and operate under the CCAC Terms of Reference
- All decisions involving animal care and use are decided at ACC
- The ACC must evaluate the ethical acceptability of any proposed animal use protocol before the study is allowed to begin

Local ACC (continued)



- An ACC is made up of scientists and/or teachers, a veterinarian, a non-animal institutional member, technical staff (animal care workers), student representatives, and one (1) or two (2) community representatives
- The exact composition is determined by the size of the institution. CCAC stipulates that all meetings must include the veterinarian and the community representative

Local ACC (continued)



- Community representatives are actively involved in protocol reviews, developing policies and procedures on animal care and use, and annual visits of animal facilities





Community Representatives need not apologize for not being scientists. They should not feel as though they are less informed. They should ask straightforward and honest questions and feel free to express honest opinions.



Discussion Questions



- What motivated you to become a Community Representative?
- What are some of the difficulties you have experienced as a Community Representative?
- What can institutions do to make Community Representatives feel more welcome on their animal care committees?

Discussion Questions (continued)



- What can the CCAC do to further support Community Representatives?
- Do you think the Canadian public is aware of the role of the CCAC and community representation?
- What are the positive aspects of being a Community Representative?



**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR
PARTICIPATION!**