The Impact of CCAC Compliance on Educational Institutions

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- In Quebec, the AHT Program has a 3 year competency based curriculum, which also provides the students with a general studies education.

- The competencies have been set forth by the Ministry of Education, and were meant to standardize the level of instruction and the methods of student evaluation.
Pedagogical Merit

Who is responsible for the evaluation of the educational merit of a protocol/course?

• the author
• the students
• the institutional ACC
• the advisory committee
• the curriculum committee
• all of the above
Responsibilities of the ACC

• Function
• Membership
• Resources; time, personnel, budget
• Paperwork for Review...Animal Use Protocol Form + Renewal, Amendment Form, Post Approval Monitoring Form, Site Visit reports, AUDF, SOP’S, Meeting Minutes etc.
• Conflicts of interest
Protocol Review

- Animal species/numbers justification for both clinical and research courses...same criteria?

- Ethical endpoints for individual animals.

- SOP’s current with modern veterinary standards.
SOP’s

• Course-specific humane endpoints for invasive procedures.

• How do we interpret this for clinical procedures?

• Does it compromise the educational value of the procedure?
Post Approval Monitoring

• Transparency

• Documentation

• Solutions intended to improve animal welfare
Reporting of Animal Numbers

• Should animals used in teaching of clinical courses (e.g. routine vaccination) be counted in the AUDF?

• Should animals used by students on internship (in private veterinary clinics, zoos and shelters) be counted in the AUDF, if they are not being used primarily for teaching purposes?
Reporting of Animal Numbers

Complex when animals are used in multiple protocols. Clarification on categories of invasiveness, especially for wild animals. Timing of AUDF report coincides with mid-term evaluations in academic institutions.
Facilities

• Should colleges have to adhere to the same stringent requirements as institutions conducting animal based research?
• Updating a conventional animal facility to comply with changes in industry standards is costly and disruptive.
• Alternatives?
Continuing Education and Training

• On going and relevant professional development and continuing education should be mandatory for all instructors, veterinarians and animal care staff.
• All ACC members should receive training on their respective roles on the committee.
Unfortunately, the budget is usually insufficient to accommodate all requests.
Administrative Responsibility

- Occupational Health and Safety Program
- Crisis Management Program
- Should demonstrate strong support of the ACC and the animal care and welfare program
- Ensure that adequate resources are available for the health, welfare, safety and security of facilities, the animals in the teaching