

# What are the critical elements with respect to ACC site visits?

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“Have Your Say in CCAC Policy Development for ACCs”

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# Overview

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- Current Policy and scope of visits
- Supplementary Quality Assessments
- Criteria for a Successful Visit
- Summary and Conclusion

# What is the purpose of the ACC site visit?

- “[To] ensure, through regular site visits and work with institutional officials, that the animal facilities and areas used for animal care and use by the institution are appropriate and meet institutional and CCAC standards”
  - Federal, provincial and other applicable laws and regulations

# Current CCAC Policy

## Terms of reference for ACC (2006)

### – Section 4 Meetings - ACC should:

- Regularly visit all areas where animals used
  - At least **annually** – **each member**  $\geq$  1/year
  - If **problems** – **more frequent** visits (e.g. subcommittee)
- Visits are **documented** – **follow-up ACC and SA**
- **Response** to recommendations **expected**

## Senior admin. responsible for ACUP (2008)

- Regular visits, **training of community members**
- **Reports must be readily available to SA**

# Scope of the visit

- Terms of reference for ACC (2006)
  - Section 3.(m) Responsibilities
    - Animal care and experimentation meets CCAC policy, guidelines, federal, provincial and Inst. Reg.
    - Adequate animal care and management
    - Training and qualification of users and animal care personnel
    - Occupational Health and Safety
    - Standard of husbandry, facilities and equipment
    - SOPs and procedures for euthanasia

# Quality Control of an Animal Care and Use Programme

- External Control
  - CCAC triennial assessment
  - Provincial Inspectors (e.g. Ontario)
  - AAALAC International, FDA, ISO, Clients (private, DoD), granting agencies, members of public, Animal Welfare Organisations, visit by peers
- Internal Control
  - Post Approval Monitoring (PAM)
  - Facility Managers and Veterinarians
  - Quality Assurance (GLP, ISO), Health & Safety
  - Animal Care Staff, researchers, students

# Weaknesses observed by oversight bodies

- Periodicity (< 1 visit/annum)
- Lack of training of the site visit team
- Lack of consistency of members on site visit team
- Lack of follow-up from previous Site Visit (s)
- ACC and or Senior Administrator not kept in the loop
- Deficiencies not categorised
- Reports not signed by majority of the ACC

# Criteria for Successful Visit

1. Composition of the team and their training
2. Facility and research rep. present
3. Clear objectives for the visit
4. Quality summary of previous info and concerns
5. Prompt and detailed report
  - Categorisation of deficiencies
  - Due date for correction and who responsible?
  - Follow-up and information (e.g. EHS)
6. ACC and Senior Administrator informed
7. Administrative Support



# Criteria for Successful Visit Inspection Template

1. Report form for ACC Visit?
  - Check List
  - Free Text ~ CCAC panel assessment
  - Combination of both
2. Is there an universal template?

# Summary & Conclusions

Site Visits are essential component of an effective Animal Care and Use Programme

- Maintain communication between the ACC , Facilities and Senior Administrator
- Follow up on previous concerns and recommendations

ACC Site Visit Team should be:

- Knowledgeable, fair, collegial and supportive
- “eyes, ears and nose” of ACC, CCAC, regulators & granting agencies, and public
- Open to asking questions; summarizing concerns before leaving to avoid surprises

Host open and supportive to comments and suggestions