Building Trust Outside an Animal Care and Use Program

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Ottawa, ON
Animal-Based Science
This Session Will Include…

- Information on CCAC’s perspective and role
- Perspective of a community representative on the matter
- Examples from CCAC-certified institutions
- Other considerations
- Discussions!
CCAC’s New Focus on Public Affairs and Communications

Education, Training and Communications (ETC)

Public Affairs and Communications (PAC)
Mandate of the PAC Committee

- To promote the CCAC as a leading organization in the advancement of the ethical use and welfare of animals in science

- To achieve this mandate, it focuses its efforts on:
  - Overseeing, and advising the Board of Directors, on initiatives to increase public awareness of the CCAC, its mission and its ongoing impact; and
  - Overseeing, and advising the Board of Directors, on the effectiveness of its communications with all CCAC stakeholders
Mandate of the PAC Committee

- DOES NOT include the promotion of animal-based research

- DOES include increasing public awareness of:
  - The existence of the CCAC
  - The ethical use of animals in science conducted in CCAC-certified institutions as a whole
  - International recognition of CCAC standards
What to Look Forward To

- CCAC being generally more proactive

- "Resource kit" for certified-institutions
  - Background document on the ethical use of animals in CCAC-certified institutions
  - Key messages on CCAC’s mandate and program
  - Case studies
OUTREACH EXAMPLES FROM CCAC-CERTIFIED INSTITUTIONS
Public Outreach Examples

- Reasons behind outreach may vary…
  - Questions from media or public
  - Targeting by activist organizations
  - Desire to increase awareness (inside/outside an institution)

- Not all institutions use the same approach
  - Proactive
  - Reactive
  - Silent
Public Outreach Examples

- CCAC is not here to tell you what to do, but to:
  - Share existing outreach initiatives
  - Help to initiate a conversation about successes, challenges and potential solutions in public outreach

- Some « case studies » and examples
UBC Case Study

(Target of: STOP
UBC ANIMAL RESEARCH)
UBC Case Study

- First signs: posters around campus
UBC Case Study

- FIPPA & meeting requests, campaigns and petitions

UBC (University of British Columbia) is planning the construction of a new 4500 sq. ft animal research facility at the Okanagan. Brian Vincent, member of a non profit organization called "Stop Animal Research" says that UBC went out of their way to keep details of this facility secret.
UBC Case Study

- Public protests generating media attention
UBC Case Study

- Turning point:
UBC Case Study

- Develop a new outreach strategy:
  - Engaging internal audiences
  - Engaging the public
Faculty members, staff and students

- Institutional commitment to transparency
- Provide forum for respectful debate
- Broad definition of animal research
- Dedicated website animalresearch.ubc.ca
- Executive and faculty spokespersons
- Regular communication from VP Office
- Support for targeted researchers
Decision makers, opinion leaders, policymakers, alumni and local communities

- www.animalresearch.ubc.ca as a public resource
- Stories in UBC publications
- News releases, media interviews and op-eds
- Quick response to correct misinformation
- Understand sensitivities of external stakeholders
UBC Case Study – Engaging the Public

- Public release of animal use data and other information
UBC Case Study – Engaging the Public

- Dedicated website

The Role of Animals in Research

An online informational resource for members of the UBC community, the broader public and news media

ANIMALS in UBC research

100% reviewed for humane care

97% rodents, fish and reptiles

68% minor or no discomfort

UBC releases additional information on animals in research


Frequently Asked Questions

Mar. 29, 2012
Amphetamine Spurs Slackers to Work and Workers to Slack — at Least For Rats

Mar. 28, 2012
Coffee and other stimulant drugs may cause high achievers to slack off: UBC study
http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/2012/03/28/coffee-and-other-stimulant-drugs-may-cause-high-achievers-to-slack-off-ubc-study/

Mar. 19, 2012
UBC animal research vindicated by Canadian Council on Animal Care
http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/2012/03/19/ubc-animal-research-vindicated-by-federal-regulator/

Around the world, research using animals has played an essential role in almost every major health advance for both humans and animals.
UBC Case Study – Engaging the Public

Articles in alumni publications

Like all leading research universities, UBC engages in animal research to investigate and address some of the more challenging issues of our time, including biodiversity loss, human disease, and the effects of climate change. And, like all research, it presents serious ethical questions that we must face as a responsible academic community.

When is animal research necessary? When is it not? How will animal research benefit both human and animal populations? How can we improve upon past research?

We asked these and other questions of each of the 902 animal research projects approved at UBC in 2010, which involved a total of 211,604 animals in the field or in laboratories. Of these, 97.9% were rodents, fish, reptiles and amphibians. Without their participation, we could not have confidently answered a range of vital scientific questions with implications for our society and our planet.

We stand by our research, whether it is to improve medicine, care diseases, understand basic biology, or ensure better treatment of animals in society. And others stand by it, too: the patients who benefit from our medicines; the agencies that fund our research; and the regulators who monitor and enforce the strict codes of ethics and behavior we adhere to.

A university campus allows us to respectfully debate the more contentious issues of our time. As part of an ongoing academic dialogue to evolve our thinking and practices on the issue of animal research, four scholars share their reflections with UBC Reports.

Let the conversation continue.

UBC Reports, The University of British Columbia, February 2012

Making wise decisions about animals

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Let the conversation continue.
UBC Case Study – in 2014:

- SUBCAR is not operating anymore
- UBC continues to publish its annual animal use data and to add relevant information on its public website
McGill Case Study

- Recent conference and demonstration
McGill Case Study

- Controversial study by Dr. Mogil

**CBC News**

**Mouse pain study met ethics rules**

A Montreal study that observed the expressions of mice in pain has been found to comply with Canadian ethical guidelines for animal research.

The Canadian Council on Animal Care, which regulates the use of laboratory animals, made the ruling Thursday after investigating the study led by Jeffrey Mogil at McGill University.
McGill Case Study

- Neuroscience undergraduate panel discussion

- Panel Discussion on Animal Experimentation in Science
McGill Case Study

- Article in student’s newspaper – the McGill Daily

McGill Case Study

- Participation in a CBC radio interview originating from the WC8 hosted by the CCAC

- Participants:
  - Jim Gourdon, director of Comparative Medicine and Animal Resources Centre
  - Clément Gauthier, former CCAC Executive Director
  - Thierry Decelle (Sanofi-Pasteur)

Letter from the Administration to all members of McGill’s animal research community

[McGill Case Study]

Dear colleagues,

Following McGill’s last assessment, the Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC), which is responsible for setting and maintaining animal care and use standards in science nationwide, is recommending that we clarify some aspects of our Animal Care and Use Program, especially its structure and the roles and responsibilities of its constituents.

**Use of Animals in Research or Teaching at McGill University and its affiliated institutions**

McGill University regards the use of animals in research, teaching, and testing to be an integral component of continued progress in certain areas of science, education, and agriculture. The use of healthy, well cared for animals has been essential for advances in the life sciences, medicine, and agriculture and has resulted in enormous benefits for human and animal health. McGill is committed to conducting the highest quality research and to providing animals with the best care available. At McGill, the use of animals is subjected to rigorous institutional scientific, pedagogical merit review and to ethical review by Animal Care Committees to ensure that animals are used only when necessary and under humane and appropriate conditions.

Individuals using or caring for animals at McGill or its affiliated institutions have a responsibility to the scientific community and society as a whole for the proper stewardship of animals under their care. They should be aware that the use of animals in research and teaching is a privilege governed by public concerns, federal and provincial laws and regulations, CCAC guidelines and policies, and McGill University policies, procedures and guidelines.

All animal-based protocols conducted by members of McGill University or its affiliated institutions will comply with Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) and McGill University policies and guidelines; will be peer-reviewed for scientific or pedagogical merit; will be approved by the local Facility Animal Care Committee (FACC) before animals are purchased and used; and will be performed in a facility which will ensure the safety of the staff and students while maintaining the health and welfare of animals through high standards of animal care and facility management.

**Monitoring the Care and Use of Animals**

It is important that all members of McGill's animal research community understand the organizational structure currently in place that ensures compliance with this program.

http://www.mcgill.ca/research/researchers/compliance/animal/
McGill Case Study

Pamphlet

Safeguards
It isn't easy to get a research proposal involving animals approved at McGill. Before animals are involved in research, two levels of review must occur. First, a peer research panel must determine that the proposed research project does indeed have scientific merit and that it can lead to advances in understanding and knowledge. Second, the University’s Animal Care Committee must approve the project. Even after independent research experts and the Animal Care Committee approve, the researchers must then follow strict guidelines imposed by the Canadian Council on Animal Care. At McGill, we meet or exceed federal guidelines and our facilities are inspected regularly.

Compassion
Researchers and everyone involved in research with animals – including veterinarians and animal care technicians – are sincerely concerned about the welfare of animals that are part of the research process. But researchers are also concerned about the sick and disabled among us who are desperate for ways to deal with pain or the prognosis of fatal illness or who seek better ways to ease their suffering from a chronic medical condition. Thousands, perhaps millions, of lives can be improved by a successful research project that leads to better care and treatment – for the grandfather taken by Alzheimer’s disease, the mother stricken with breast cancer, the child learning to live with diabetes, the whole segment of a community trying to cope with excessive levels of cholesterol or heart disease. Those are the people the researchers are trying to help.

Where to find out more
There is a wealth of information about humane animal research available on the Internet. Here is a sample of sites you might want to visit to learn more:
- McGill University and Affiliated Hospitals’ animal care program: www.mcgill.ca/research/researchers/compliance/animal/
- McGill’s online training course: www.animalcare.mcgill.ca
- Canadian Council on Animal Care (Federal government): www.ccac.ca
- Canadian Institutes for Health Research: www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca
- Foundation for Biomedical Research: www.fbrresearch.org
- Student website on research: www.speakinofresearch.org
- Another student–supported site on the benefits of research: www.pro-test.org.uk
- The Society for Neuroscience: www.sfn.org/
- You can also send an email to animalcare@mcgill.ca if you have more or comments.

Why animals play a crucial role in research
From the development of insulin to the latest life-prolonging cancer drugs and virtually every major medical advance in between, animals have played vital roles in scientific research that have led to cures and treatments for a wide array of human diseases. They have helped scientists improve the nutritional value of our food supply and – thanks to agricultural and veterinary research – have helped bring about a better quality of life for many animals and a safer environment as well.

Millions of lives have been saved, improved and extended thanks to the results of humane scientific research that has relied upon animals at various stages. Without the use of animals, men, women and children around the world would simply not enjoy the quality and length of life they do today.

The "Three Rs"
Animals are used in research when there is simply no alternative that will produce the necessary results.

But before scientists at McGill are allowed to employ animals in research, they must follow what are called the “Three Rs” as established by the federal government’s Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC). That means:
- they must replace animals with alternative research methods wherever possible
- they must reduce the use of animals to the least number possible
- they must refine their procedures to minimize adverse conditions for animals

Big science depends on small mammals to understand what ails us

By Andrew Vowles

Two floors below street level in downtown Toronto, Heather Goodman built the way along a wide deserted corridor lit by fluorescent ceiling panels. Her baby-blue dip-on bobby pin tumbled against the spotless floor. In matching scrubs, she looked like a hospital staff, but her actual title is supervisor of technical services for the Toronto Centre for Phenogenomics (TCP). Goodman steps inside a door whose red-lit window keeps out the exterior light at night when the mouse occupants enjoy total darkness during their active periods. As it's now early afternoon, the interior lights are on.

Swiping her ID badge through a reader, she pushes open the door just enough to poke a head inside. The room is filled with stainless-steel shelves packed with plastic cages, now in one lights or no lights, it's difficult from the partly-opened doorway to make out what's inside there. But that here nothing is unmistakable sound. Some hours, behind the plastic lid of an upper-shelf cage, mouse the door. A false form appears — one of the thousands of occupants housed in this new research facility.

Loud enough, that scrabbling of noise in their cages might begin to sound like something else: a hyped-up groundwell of genetic information coming from the TCP that will help us learn more about ourselves and how to treat and perhaps cure cancer, heart disease, asthma, arthritis, neurodegenerative disorders, diabetes and numerous other diseases.

Opened in fall 2007, this $47-million facility is among the largest genetic centers in the world dedicated to the development and study of animal models for human health and disease research. The three-story, 120,000-square-foot building stands within walking distance of its four supporting research hospitals: Mount Sinai, St. Michael’s, the Hospital for Sick Children and the University Health Network.

You can see the University of Guelph floors here, but you can follow numerous research and teaching connections between the TCP and the Ontario Veterinary College, beginning with the two-time Nobel laureate who heads the Toronto center:

CEO Colin McEwen, DVM ’67 and DAVSc ’79, says the TCP is much more than a breeding nest for laboratory mice: “It’s a research center that’s all about enabling human health research,” he says.

The University of Toronto professor and SickKids researcher holds an adjunct appointment in U of G’s Department of
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Lennoxville)

- Open door events & posters
University of Lethbridge (CCBN)

- Open door events
Canadian experience thus far…

- Institutional efforts to explain animal care and use have been well received
- Efforts made in the past were often personal rather than institutional, but this is changing
- The public has shown extensive engagement in research, in addition to wanting reassurance about standards of animal care and use
- Institutions have been pleased with delivering their own messages, rather than having others control communications
Options

- In countries where activism is more prevalent (US, UK), institutions and associations have become better organized and more direct in delivering explanations about animal care and use in science.

- Canadian institutions have the option of working together on their communications.
Future considerations

- Public concern about animals is unlikely to decrease
- Social media campaigns, etc. about animal concerns are likely to increase
- Greater transparency about animal care and use in science is likely to have a positive impact on public support for responsible animal use
Food for thought

- Internal discussions before engaging with the public:
  - Security
  - Transparency

- Several stakeholders involved:
Thank you!