Canadian Council on Animal Care
Workshop
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Challenges for ACCs: Building Trust Inside and Outside:
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TRUST

The problem may start with us believing that we are already trusted.
The Optimal ACC

- CCAC Policy Statements for Institutional Animal Care and Use Programs
  - Terms of Reference for Animal Care Committees* March 2006
The Optimal ACC-Composition

- community reps
- scientists and/or teachers
- non-animal user
- technical staff representation
- student representation
- the ACC coordinator
- animal facility Director
- occupational health and safety and biosafety representatives
- biostatisticians, ethicists and those responsible for public relations.
- chair
- veterinarian
The Optimal ACC-Composition

“community rep”

- person(s) representing community interests and concerns
  - no affiliation with the institution,
  - not been involved in animal use for research, teaching or testing
  - needed for all ACC activities throughout the year
  - ensure they are balanced—research is necessary
  - worth their weight in gold
  - finding and keeping
The Optimal ACC-Composition

“animal user”

- scientists and/or teachers
- experienced in animal care and use
- representation of all the major animal-using divisions of the institution
- the good the bad and the ugly
The Optimal ACC-Composition

“non-animal user”

- an institutional member whose normal activities, past or present, do not depend on or involve animal use
  - Commitment
  - Consider involvement in research of some type
The Optimal ACC-Composition

“technician”

- animal care, an animal facility or an animal research technician
- grass roots
- knows the lay of the land
- More than one facility represented
- The doubtors – bring them into the status of the enlightened
The Optimal ACC-Composition

“facility managers”
- many facilities – rotate

“good to haves”
- biostatisticians – or knowledgeable persons
- ethicists
- public relations
- health and safety
- transgenic/breeding coordinator
The Optimal ACC-Composition

“The Chair”

- not directly involved in the management of the institutional animal facilities,
- not the vet
- not-too many protocols - yet credible
- recognized from within the ranks
- not afraid to represent the committee
The Optimal ACC-Composition

“Veterinarian”

- isn’t this straight forward?
  - Combined or amalgamated ACCs
  - All facets represented
- Vet/Chair relationship
Tools to inform animal users

- Webinars
  - CCAC, OSHA
- Newsletters
- Animal users email lists – new information ccac guidelines drafts etc
- Professional development day – ie the refresher
- Guest speakers
The Perfect Protocol Form

- Just shoot me now
- CCAC scapegoat
  - Mandated questions
- Ask questions up front on protocol or risk having to ask later
- Repetitiveness
- The format – pdf, word, electronic program
  - user friendly
  - Drop downs to take away the guessing
The Perfect Protocol Form - Consensus

- Perfect from who’s perspective
- The right mix – scientists, community rep, veterinarian, ACC coordinator
- In advance appeal to the masses – survey says
The Perfect Protocol Form - Concensus

- Revisions – no new questions – every new one means one has to be taken
- Before you are done – appeal to the masses
- Trial it-use someone on your side
Communication builds trust

- Transparency of the process
- Accountability
- Vet written reports to ACC
- Post approval monitoring reports
- You may be dealing with concerns and don’t want to bother the committee with information
  - But do your job and let the ACC do theirs
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- But do your job and let the ACC do theirs
Animal Care Committee

- Value added process
- Facilitate research to move forward
- Reconciling/adjudicating issues
- Preserve the integrity of the institution
- Bridge to senior administration
- Collegial atmosphere
Building Trust

Questions ????