



RECOMMENDATIONS MADE IN CCAC ASSESSMENT REPORTS

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CCAC ASSESSMENT REPORTS

Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) assessment reports support institutions in achieving best practices in animal ethics and care, highlight strengths and weaknesses of institutional programs, and identify recommendations for improvement. An assessment report is produced after a visit by a CCAC assessment panel* and provides an institution with a review of its animal ethics and care program, based on the panel's analysis of information from the following sources:

- the completed CCAC *Animal Care and Use Program Review Form* and other relevant documents provided by the institution
- meetings of the CCAC assessment panel with members of the institutional animal care committee, representatives from the institutional administration, veterinary and animal care staff, researchers and instructors, and other personnel involved in the animal ethics and care program; and
- a site visit of any animal facilities.

Recommendations are based on CCAC policies, guidelines documents, and other standards recognized by the CCAC. Excellent conditions, practices, or personnel are recognized in formal commendations. The assessment report is reviewed by the CCAC assessment panel and the Assessment and Certification Committee before it is sent to the senior administrator responsible for the institution's animal ethics and care program. The senior administrator must respond to recommendations in the assessment report within specified time limits, detailing the institutional actions taken in response to CCAC recommendations.

Institutions cannot be certified without implementing CCAC recommendations to the satisfaction of the Assessment and Certification Committee and CCAC Board of Directors (see the *CCAC policy: Certification of animal ethics and care programs*).

* A CCAC assessment panel can be comprised of an associate director of assessment alone, or with a group of expert volunteers.



CATEGORIES OF CCAC RECOMMENDATIONS

MAJOR

Apply to an immediate and significant threat to animal health or welfare found during a CCAC visit for which the institution must take immediate appropriate action. Failure to take such action will result in the removal of the institution's CCAC Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice®.

SERIOUS

Apply to significant or long-standing weaknesses in the animal ethics and care program. The measures taken and planned in response to these recommendations must be provided to the CCAC, typically within three months of the institution receiving the written recommendations.

REGULAR

Apply to weaknesses in the animal ethics and care program. The measures taken and planned in response to these recommendations must be provided to the CCAC within six months of the institution receiving the written recommendations.