CCAC FACTS & FIGURES

DATE OF REVISION: October 2021

The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) is a national, non-profit organization acting in the interest of Canadians to advance high standards of ethical animal care and use in science throughout Canada.

Created in 1968, the CCAC develops guidelines based on expert peer advice and current interpretation of scientific evidence, oversees their implementation, assesses and certifies institutions working with animals for scientific purposes, and provides tools and training resources.

FUNDING

The CCAC is financed primarily by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), with additional contributions from annual program participation fees paid by CCAC-certified institutions participating in its programs.

Designed to be equitable and affordable, while preserving the arm’s-length nature of the CCAC and its programs, the fee structure ensures that the contribution of an institution is not linked to the resources required from the CCAC.

FUNDING SOURCES:
- CIHR/NSERC Funding: $1,750,000
- Program Participation Fees: $1,153,133
- Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy: $337,742
- Other: $5,030

The audited report covers the period from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

2000+

VOLUNTEER EXPERTS
- veterinarians
- animal welfare experts
- researchers
- bioethicists, etc.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

SERVE ON

~200 LOCAL ANIMAL CARE COMMITTEES

to help fulfill the CCAC’s mandate and deliver its programs in institutions across Canada.

In both Canada and abroad, animals are studied and counted in the wild, on farms, and in research facilities for Canadian science.

From biomedical laboratories where researchers study fundamental science, to veterinary colleges where students learn to treat animals, and national parks where biologists study wildlife populations, the CCAC and its network of volunteer experts are there to ensure high standards of ethical animal care and use.

www.ccac.ca
Newly generated genetically modified animals are classified as Category of Invasiveness D as a precaution until the welfare status of the animals can be determined.

Fish, mice, and rats were the most frequently used animals in procedures which were classified as Category of Invasiveness E. The majority of these procedures were conducted for studies of a fundamental nature in science relating to essential structures or functions (31.0%) and for regulatory testing purposes (29.3%).

Categories of invasiveness are based on a precautionary approach and protocols are assigned a category according to the potential level of pain and distress that the animals might experience.

Fish, mice, and rats were the most frequently used animals in procedures which were classified as Category of Invasiveness E. The majority of these procedures were conducted for studies of a fundamental nature in science relating to essential structures or functions (31.0%) and for regulatory testing purposes (29.3%).

Category of Invasiveness A is assigned where protocols involve the use of tissue, tissue culture, eggs, invertebrates, protozoa, or other animal use where neither vertebrates nor cephalopods are involved, and are not published in the CCAC annual animal data reports.
PERCENTAGE OF ANIMALS USED IN SCIENCE AT CCAC-CERTIFIED INSTITUTIONS IN 2020 BY PURPOSE OF ANIMAL USE

DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTS OR DEVICES
Studies for the development of products or appliances for human or veterinary medicine
- Studying pigs to develop artificial organs for humans
56%

FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Studies of a fundamental nature in science relating to essential structures or functions
- Investigating how certain hormones produced from the gut and brain regulate energy balance, growth, and reproduction in fish
- Studying the migration patterns of an endangered species of bird
28%

MEDICAL OR CLINICAL STUDIES
Studies for medical purposes that relate to human or animal diseases or disorders
- Studying rodents to better understand the genes involved in human diabetes, cancer, and arthritis
11%

EDUCATION AND TRAINING
Teaching and training to communicate scientific concepts, and develop practical skills and expertise in specific techniques
- Training college and university students in animal health programs
3%

REGULATORY TESTING
Studies for regulatory testing of products for the protection of humans, animals, or the environment
- Testing the efficacy of a new medication for Parkinson’s Disease on nonhuman primates
3%

CERTIFICATION
The CCAC assesses and certifies Canadian institutions that work with animals for scientific purposes (research, teaching, and testing), and meet the CCAC’s high standards. In 2020:

202 public and private sector institutions belonged to the CCAC program
7 institutions were on probation

THREE Rs
There continues to be an increased focus on the Three Rs by researchers to develop new alternatives to animal models.

R Replacing or avoiding animals in science
R Reducing the number of animals in science
R Refining care and procedures to minimize pain and distress

While there are many alternatives to animal testing currently under development, only those methods that are validated and accepted by government agencies can be used in regulatory testing.

THE MAJORITY OF ANIMALS REPORTED IN 2020 WERE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF PRODUCTS OR DEVICES, REPRESENTING 2,898,232 ANIMALS.