

## CERTIFICATION OF ETHICAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE PROGRAMS

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The following is a selection of frequently asked questions (and their respective answers) concerning the *CCAC policy: Certification of ethical animal care and use programs.*

1. How does this policy differ from the previous (February 2021) policy? ..... 1
2. What is the assessment and certification process? ..... 1
3. What steps does an institution take to become CCAC certified? ..... 1
4. The *CCAC policy: Certification of ethical animal care and use programs* includes a requirement to notify the CCAC of reportable animal welfare incidents within 14 days. Why was this requirement added to the policy? ..... 1
5. The policy includes a requirement to provide an account of all animal incidents reported to the institutional animal care committee since the last CCAC assessment visit in the *CCAC Ethical Animal Care and Use Program Review Form*. What should this look like? ..... 2

### 1. How does this policy differ from the previous (February 2021) policy?

There are three changes to the policy:

- the name of the policy has changed to better reflect the name of animal-based programs in Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) certified institutions;
- **major** animal welfare incidents have been replaced by **CCAC reportable** animal welfare incidents; and
- institutions must notify the CCAC of reportable animal welfare incidents within 14 days of occurrence.

### 2. What is the assessment and certification process?

The CCAC assesses and certifies institutional animal care and use programs every three years. Assessments take place through either a **regular visit** (conducted by a panel of peers) or an **interim visit** (conducted by an associate director of assessment, who may or may not be accompanied by a peer). Regular and interim visits generally alternate every three years.

Certification involves the review of institutional implementation reports and updates by the assessment panel and the CCAC. Once the information provided by the institution is deemed satisfactory, the institution can receive a CCAC Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice®.

[Sample agendas and pre-assessment documentation requirements](#) can be found on the CCAC website.

### 3. What steps does an institution take to become CCAC certified?

Institutions that would like to apply for CCAC certification should [contact the CCAC](#) and follow the instructions outlined in [Helping Canadian Institutions Join the CCAC Program](#) (CCAC, 2019).

### 4. The CCAC policy: Certification of ethical animal care and use programs includes a requirement to notify the CCAC of reportable animal welfare incidents within 14 days. Why was this requirement added to the policy?

This requirement was added to the policy because, in the view of the CCAC, reporting:

- is an important element of the CCAC's mandate to oversee animal-based science in certified institutions;
- will help educate institutional personnel and support animal care committees through the sharing of relevant information; and
- will inform the development of CCAC standards.

For additional information (including examples of what constitutes a CCAC reportable animal welfare incident, and how to inform the CCAC), see the [CCAC frequently asked questions: CCAC reportable animal welfare incidents](#).

- 5. The policy includes a requirement to provide an account of all animal incidents reported to the institutional animal care committee since the last CCAC assessment visit in the CCAC *Ethical Animal Care and Use Program Review Form*. What should this look like?**

The CCAC expects to see a list of all animal incidents reported to the animal care committee since the last CCAC assessment, including the dates of occurrence, the species involved, and a very brief description of the incidents, including the causes. This information should be provided in Section 2, Appendix 2M of the CCAC *Ethical Animal Care and Use Program Review Form*.

Assessment panels may ask for more information about particular incidents during the assessment visit; however, panels will mostly ask animal care committees if they have identified trends, and how they are managing them.