



TERMS OF REFERENCE Cats Subcommittee

DATE OF PUBLICATION: April 2025

PURPOSE

The purpose of the terms of reference for the Cats Subcommittee is to establish the ground rules for a new subcommittee tasked with the development of animal-type guidelines on cats. The terms of reference describe the composition of the subcommittee, including the relevant expertise required to undertake the work, the scope of the task, the timeframe for completion of the task, and responsibilities of the subcommittee members and others involved in the development of *CCAC guidelines: Cats*.

MANDATE

To develop *CCAC guidelines: Cats* that includes the topics listed in the table of contents for animal-type guidelines and provides expert peer advice and current interpretation of scientific evidence.

FORMATION OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

This subcommittee is formed at the discretion of the CCAC Standards Committee, on the advice of the CCAC Governance and Nominations Committee, and as approved by the CCAC Board of Directors, to respond to the need for expertise in the development of *CCAC guidelines: Cats*.

The selection of subcommittee members follows the procedures outlined in the [CCAC process: Formation of a guidelines subcommittee](#). Each member of the subcommittee will be knowledgeable in one or more aspects of the guidelines document to be developed, and one non-voting member of the subcommittee will be drawn from the Standards Committee.

TERM

In general, subcommittees are disbanded upon publication of the guidelines document. However, some subcommittees may remain active where the CCAC is likely to encounter requests for the development of supporting documents or input into key external documents. In addition, all subcommittee members are asked if they are willing to continue to provide advice and assistance to the CCAC on an ad hoc basis.

MEETINGS

Typically, the subcommittee will meet once a month by videoconference. Additional funds can be requested when budget allows, should the need for an in-person meeting arise. Meetings will be held in English.

Normally, the expenses incurred by subcommittee members in attending meetings or workshops will be met by the CCAC in accordance with the *CCAC Travel Expenses Reimbursement Guidelines*.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

The chair must be knowledgeable about cats, and is responsible for the following:

- chairing all subcommittee meetings
- establishing consensus among subcommittee members
- ensuring the scientific quality of the material submitted by subcommittee members
- working with the CCAC Secretariat at each stage in the preparation of the guidelines document
- adhering to the responsibilities of subcommittee members noted below

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Subcommittee members should be committed to ensuring the steady progress of the document as outlined in the process. If unable to meet the proposed commitments, the subcommittee member should communicate this to the CCAC Secretariat; an alternate with similar expertise will be selected in accordance with the [CCAC Process: Formation of a Guidelines Subcommittee](#).

Most subcommittee work is conducted by email or videoconference. Subcommittee members are responsible for responding to requests from the chair or CCAC Secretariat in a timely manner, and for alerting them to any likely delay in response.

Subcommittee members should make every effort to attend subcommittee meetings, so that consensus can be reached efficiently. Subcommittee discussions through videoconferences, email or in-person meetings are considered confidential.

Subcommittee members will be asked to contribute to the drafting and revision of the guidelines document, and they should ensure all statements are based on comprehensive scientific evidence.

For the peer review of the draft guidelines document, subcommittee members will be asked to suggest experts who would be suitable reviewers. A final list of experts will be approved by the chair, who will ensure all topic areas will be covered.

Following each review of the draft guidelines, the subcommittee members will be provided with collated comments from the review and tasked with evaluating those comments and providing feedback on areas where the draft guidelines need to be modified.

While the guidelines document is under development, it should be treated as "restricted access", unless it has been approved for external review. Subcommittee members may discuss the content of the document with trusted colleagues to obtain their opinion but should not circulate drafts until officially released for review.

The contributions made by subcommittee members will be recognized in the document and in announcements regarding publication of the document.

Close to the time of publication, some members of the subcommittee may be invited to facilitate sessions highlighting the guidelines document at the CCAC's National Workshop.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CCAC SECRETARIAT

The CCAC Secretariat is responsible for working with the subcommittee to ensure steady progress on the guidelines under development, and for ensuring the development of the guidelines document follows the process approved by the Standards Committee. This includes arranging videoconferences and meetings, recording minutes, drafting and editing the document in line with the decisions of the subcommittee, conducting external reviews, compiling feedback from the reviews for consideration by the subcommittee, and forwarding the draft guidelines document at appropriate stages for review/approval by the Standards Committee and Board of Directors.

The CCAC Secretariat is also responsible for providing feedback on the draft guidelines document to the subcommittee to ensure:

- the guidelines are in line with the mandate of the CCAC to advance the ethical care and use of animals in science
- the guidelines address relevant issues that have arisen in the work of the CCAC with the scientific and animal welfare communities, both nationally and internationally

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CCAC STANDARDS COMMITTEE

The Standards Committee is responsible for following the progress of the subcommittee's work and providing comments and approval of draft guidelines documents prior to peer review, public review, and publication in a timely manner.

The Standards Committee will have one member sit on the subcommittee as a non-voting member.

MEMBERSHIP

A balance of subcommittee members will be sought with regard to expertise.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE

ROLE	EXPERTISE	POSITION
Chair	Experience working with cats as a protocol author and/or a veterinarian with expertise in the use of cats for scientific purposes Experience reviewing animal use protocols	Veterinarian or researcher
Two members	Cat health and disease; and procedures conducted on cats (e.g., surgery, anesthesia)	Two veterinarians
Three members	Research or teaching, involving cats	Two protocol authors for teaching (PAU5) One protocol author for research (PAU 1, 2, or 4)
One member	Animal welfare	Animal welfare scientist
Member	Cat facilities	Facility manager

ROLE	EXPERTISE	POSITION
Member	Cat husbandry and procedures	Animal care technician
Member	Experience reviewing animal use protocols	Representative of the Canadian public
Member	Standards Committee Member	

Due to real or perceived conflicts of interest, members of the CCAC Board of Directors or standing committees other than the Standards Committee (e.g., Assessment and Certification Committee, Public Affairs and Communications Committee, and Governance and Nominations Committee) should not serve as subcommittee members, and members of the Standards Committee should not serve as voting members.

PROCESS

The subcommittee will adhere to the following process.

