



FEBRUARY 10, 2011 - CCAC WEBINAR:

**“TRAINING ANIMAL USERS, ACC MEMBERS AND ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS”**

**Questions & Answers**

**TRAINING OF ANIMAL USERS**

**Q:** *“CCAC requires that individuals using animals be competent. However, gaining competency requires time and practice, meaning that incompetent individuals will be handling animals. How can this be reconciled with the CCAC requirement?”*

**A:** Observation of and learning from competent professionals or users should probably be the first step, but hands-on training on a few animals is necessary to achieve competency. Experienced individuals should closely monitor less competent ones until an appropriate level of skill is acquired.

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**Q:** *“What is your recommendation for the training of undergraduate students especially for those involved in observation of animals as part of their course? If handling animals, assume need relevant training.”*

**A:** There is presently no CCAC training requirement for undergraduate students. Having said that, some institutions have them go through the theoretical part of the NIAUT program, and others go through both the theoretical and practical parts. The CCAC requirement is that undergraduate students have to be carefully and directly supervised.

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**Q:** *“Can you suggest a time frame/experience level for expertise in wildlife handling techniques in the field?”*

**A:** As Denise Borowski explained in her presentation, principal investigators carrying out animal-based research in the field are often very knowledgeable in the ethical care and use of these animals. A collaboration between these individuals and the animal health professionals in the training process could be highly efficient. It is the ACC’s role to ensure that users are competent. The time frame would depend on individual aptitudes.

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**Q:** *“For the fish modules, how do these compare to The Experimental Fish offered by CAI?”*

**A:** The Experimental Fish includes the core topics outlined in the CCAC's National Institutional Animal User Training Program but also includes special reference to aquatic animals and also the practical aspects of aquatic animal care. The combination of all these aspects makes it a very good "one-stop shopping" training program for fish users. The other training materials made available in the Fish Stream on the CCAC website, however, might include more detailed information on the care and use of specific categories of fish (e.g., finfish). All these references are available in the Fish Stream on the CCAC website at:

[http://www.ccac.ca/en/\\_education/niaut/fish](http://www.ccac.ca/en/_education/niaut/fish).

## TRAINING OF ACC MEMBERS

**Q:** *"Regarding ACC responsibilities - would this also include approving SOPs (relevant to research protocols) and/or evaluating scientific merit of a protocol presented to the ACC for review?"*

**A:** ACCs should be reviewing SOPs at least every three years, prioritizing those that have a direct impact on animal health and welfare. ACCs should not typically be involved in scientific merit review. A new CCAC policy explaining the role of the ACC in this regard will be published in 2011.

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**Q:** *"Is there a formal way to enlist new ACC members? Is the 3 year term mandatory?"*

**A:** The senior administrator or his/her delegate should play an active role in recruiting new ACC members. Terms of service are usually from two to four years, renewable once to a maximum of eight years of continuous service. There is no limit for ex-officio members (e.g., coordinator, veterinarian, facility managers).

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**Q:** *"What is the maximum term for an ACC Chair?"*

**A:** Since the maximum term for any ACC member is eight years, in theory the term of the Chair could extend to eight years. However, in practice, one would likely want a Chair who has had some experience on the ACC before becoming chair, and so the term is usually less than eight years.

## TRAINING OF ANIMAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

**Q:** *"Regarding the training for Animal Care Staff, could you please clarify whether it is mandatory that every Animal Care Staff is a certified CALAS member?"*

**A:** No, at this point it is not a requirement. We do however encourage institutions to help their animal care staff become certified.

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**Q:** *“How often (e.g. weekly?) do animals have to be cared for by someone associated with CALAS?”*

**A:** The requirement is for every animal to be observed and cared for on a daily basis by a competent person. From there, if research team members are caring for their own animals, a competent animal care person (CALAS registered or not) should oversee the work of research team members or students. This should be done on a regular basis. Some places do this daily, some weekly. It should not be done less than weekly.

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**Q:** *“What recommendations do you have for ongoing CE for large animal/livestock care staff? CALAS is not typically useful/relevant.”*

**A:** The new CCAC guidelines and training modules can be used, and sharing resources found at other institutions would be helpful. Consult the ACC coordinators for help!

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**Q:** *“In Dr. Baar's presentation he outlined background requirements for appointing consulting vets to the ACC. Is there a section on the CCAC web site giving these background requirements, or if not, please send me a copy of the requirements.”*

**A:** The requirements are found in Appendix VI of the *CCAC policy statement for senior administrators responsible for animal care and use programs*. The policy is on our website at: [http://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Senior\\_administrators.pdf](http://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Policies/Senior_administrators.pdf)

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