

Canadian guidelines for field research

Gilly Griffin PhD Guidelines Program Director, Canadian Council on Animal Care

In 2003 the Canadian Council on Animal Care published its *guidelines on: the care and use of wildlife* (<http://www.ccac.ca>). This was the culmination of an exercise to bring together experts (scientists, provincial and federal government management staff, veterinarians and community representatives) to agree on general principles for the key types of procedures that are carried out in the field. We were careful to include representatives from government agencies who are involved in wildlife management, as they were concerned that any guidelines that CCAC developed would be used as a standard against which their work might be judged. Although it was a lengthy process there was consensus that these guidelines would be useful both for scientists in preparing their studies and for animal care committees responsible at the local level for the ethical review of the studies, prior to their conduct in remote locations. In addition, because the guidelines were quite general we have worked to publish species-specific recommendations, which provide best practice advice for the various species groups found in Canada. So far, three of these have been published on the CCAC website (Species specific recommendations for bats; amphibians and reptiles and for birds), with four more species groups to follow. This presentation will also discuss some of the challenges in providing oversight of animal use in the field, and the mechanisms that were developed during the development of the guidelines, to try and address these challenges