

# **Update on CCAC guidelines on the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing**

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The Canadian Council on Animal Care is Canada's national organization responsible for setting and maintaining standards for the ethical use of animals in science. In 2009 the CCAC published guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing, replacing previous guidance in the CCAC Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals, vol. 1, 2nd ed.

The guidelines, developed by a subcommittee of experts aim to provide information for investigators, animal care committees, facility managers and animal care staff that will assist in improving both the care given to farm animals and the manner in which experimental procedures are carried out, recognizing that the refinement of animal care and use guidelines is a continuous process.

The guidelines apply to farm animals used by institutions for a wide variety of scientific purposes. While these animals are mostly used for agricultural research and teaching purposes, some institutions use farm animals for testing purposes, in particular for disease control or vaccine development. Farm animals are also used to model or understand biological processes, and some of these studies involve the genetic modification of animals.

In general, the public expects a higher standard of animal welfare for animals used in science than those used for food production. The guidelines take the position that research and teaching institutions should provide leadership in the exploration, development and implementation of best practices for the agricultural industry, and that for institutions involved in teaching, students should graduate fully aware of the current best practices.