CAREB/CAURA West 2010 Conference Program
25 November 2010
Saskatoon

Workshop:
Animal Euthanasia Practices
and
CCAC Guidelines
Workshop Outline

Introduction

Laboratory Animal Euthanasia
Dr Colette Wheler, Animal Resources Centre

Large Animal Euthanasia
Dr Chris Clark, Veterinary Large Animal Clinical Sciences

Humane Killing of Wildlife - Field Work and Laboratory
Dr Marc Cattet, Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre

Discussion Period
Introduction

- CCAC Guidelines Program
  - Subcommittee on laboratory animal procedures

**CCAC guidelines on: euthanasia of animals used in science**
- document in final preparation stage

- Work on the new guidelines on euthanasia started in 2006
Introduction

• CCAC Guidelines Program

  • Subcommittee on laboratory animal procedures

  **CCAC guidelines on: euthanasia of animals used in science**
  - based on:

  • Two international reference documents on euthanasia
    1. AVMA Guidelines on Euthanasia 2007
    2. Recommendations for euthanasia of experimental animals

  • International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)
    Working Group on Harmonization recommendations

  • Considerations related to Canadian situation
Canadian Council on Animal Care

Guideline Development Process
ICLAS – Ten Principles for Animal Euthanasia

1. Whenever an animal's life is to be taken, it should be treated with the highest respect.

2. Euthanasia should place emphasis on making the animal's death painless and distress-free. The method likely to cause the least pain and distress to the animals should be used whenever possible.

3. Euthanasia techniques should result in rapid loss of consciousness, followed by cardiac or respiratory arrest and ultimate loss of brain function.
ICLAS – Ten Principles for Animal Euthanasia

4. Techniques should require minimum restraint of the animal and should minimize distress and anxiety experienced by the animal, before loss of consciousness.

5. Techniques used should be appropriate for the species, age, and health of the animal.

6. Death must be verified following euthanasia and before disposal of the animal.
ICLAS – Ten Principles for Animal Euthanasia

7. Personnel responsible for carrying out the euthanasia techniques should be trained:
   (i) to carry out euthanasia in the most effective and humane manner;
   (ii) to recognize signs of pain, fear, and distress in relevant species; and
   (iii) to recognize and confirm death in relevant species.

8. Human psychological responses to euthanasia should be taken into account when selecting the method of euthanasia, but should not take precedence over animal welfare considerations.
ICLAS – Ten Principles for Animal Euthanasia

9. Ethics committees should be responsible for approval of the method of euthanasia (in line with any relevant legislation). This should include euthanasia as part of the experimental protocol, as well as euthanasia for animals experiencing unanticipated pain and distress.

10. A veterinarian experienced with the species in question should be consulted when selecting the method of euthanasia, particularly when little species-specific euthanasia research has been done.

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