

Advancing High Standards in Animal Care and Use

CCAC Assessments Explained

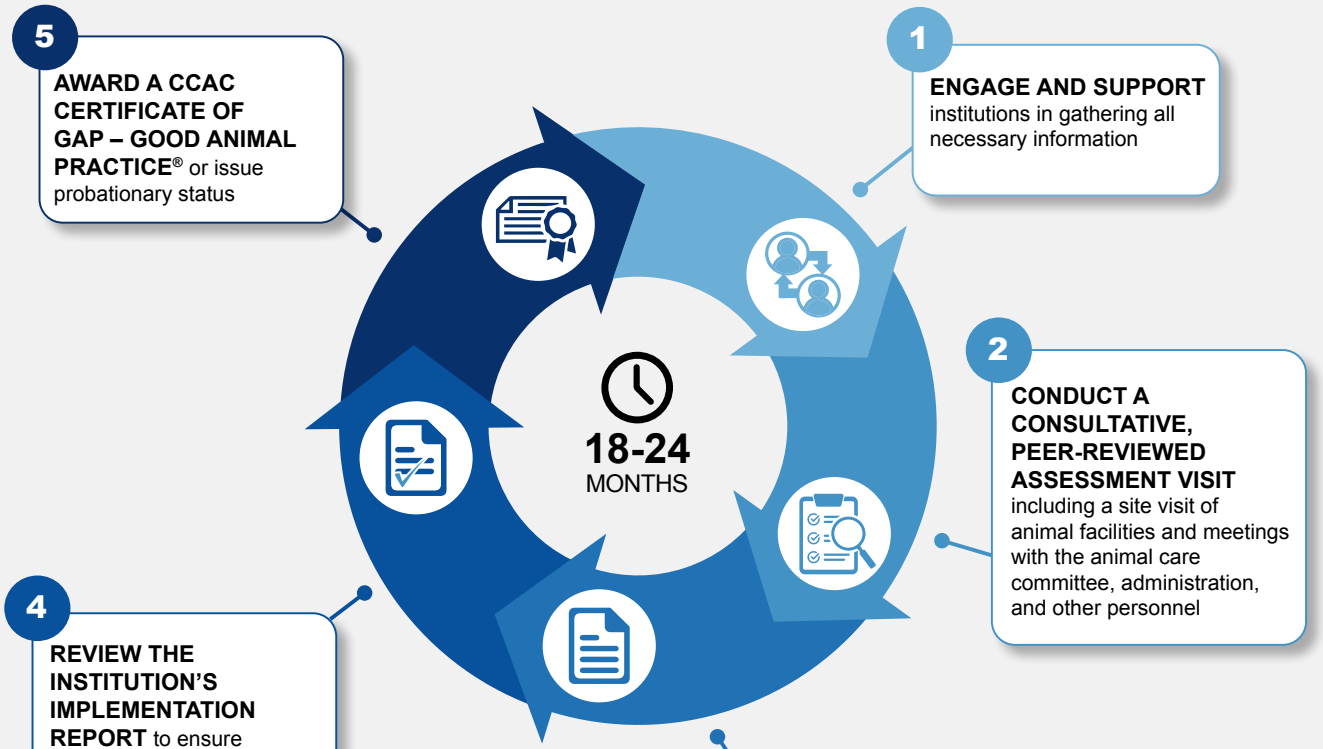
The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) Certificate of GAP – Good Animal Practice® signals that an institution is committed to meeting Canada's high standards for the care and use of animals in research, teaching, and testing. It demonstrates participation in the CCAC program and a dedication to ethical, responsible science.

To earn this certification, institutions are carefully evaluated by experts and members of the community who visit the site to review how animals are cared for, where they're housed, and how they're used in research, teaching, and testing. These in-person visits, along with a review of policies and processes, help ensure that institutions meet the high standards set by the CCAC for ethical animal care.

Institutional Animal Care and Use Program Components That Are Assessed



CCAC Assessment Process



1 **ENGAGE AND SUPPORT** institutions in gathering all necessary information

2 **CONDUCT A CONSULTATIVE, PEER-REVIEWED ASSESSMENT VISIT** including a site visit of animal facilities and meetings with the animal care committee, administration, and other personnel

3 **PROVIDE AN ASSESSMENT REPORT** detailing strengths and challenges

4 **REVIEW THE INSTITUTION'S IMPLEMENTATION REPORT** to ensure recommendations are addressed and the solutions meet CCAC standards

5 **AWARD A CCAC CERTIFICATE OF GAP – GOOD ANIMAL PRACTICE®** or issue probationary status

After the assessment visit, institutions receive a detailed report that highlights what they're doing well and suggests areas for improvement. These recommendations are categorized so the institution knows which ones to address first. A certificate is awarded if:

- there are no concerns
- serious concerns have been addressed promptly
- progress is being made on other issues that do not affect animal welfare

If an institution does not meet these requirements, it can lead to a probationary certification or certificate removal.

The certification process takes approximately 18 to 24 months, but earning the certificate is just the beginning. Institutions must continue to meet CCAC requirements and undergo a peer-reviewed assessment every three years to maintain their certified status.

This certification is more than just a credential; it's a tangible, public commitment to animal welfare and the responsible use of animals in science.

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For more information, please visit the CCAC website or contact us