

UCUCA REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEPENDENT SATELLITE ANIMAL HOUSING FACILITIES

The University Committee on the Use and Care of Animals (UCUCA) must ensure that all animal facilities satisfy regulatory requirements. The UCUCA defines an animal housing facility as any area (e.g., laboratory, room, etc.) that contains animals for twelve hours or more (except in the case of cold-blooded vertebrates, rats, mice, and birds, which have a twenty-four hour threshold). In general, both UCUCA and the Unit for Laboratory Animal Medicine (ULAM) discourage the practice of maintaining animals in areas that are not dedicated animal facilities (i.e., animal housing that is remote from the main housing area, such as in laboratory space) as it puts an extra burden on regulatory agents and building maintenance staff to maintain these areas in accordance with national laws and guidelines. However, it is understood that there are some scientific circumstances that may warrant individualized animal housing space that is outside the established facility.

According to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, “animals should be housed in facilities dedicated to or assigned for that purpose and should not be housed in laboratories merely for convenience. If animals must be maintained in a laboratory area to satisfy a protocol, the area should be appropriate to house and care for the animals.” Therefore, the UCUCA and ULAM have established the following requirements and suggestions for satellite facility operation.

The following standards are absolutes that **must** be met for these facilities if they are to house mammals, birds, reptiles, or terrestrial amphibians:

- 100% air exhaust
- Minimum 10 fresh air changes per hour
- Daily temperature monitoring and recording (high/current/low)
- Automated light timer
- Locked entry door (a copy of the key to UCUCA)
- Easily sanitizable surfaces
- Daily (including weekends and holidays) observation of animals and room condition(s)

The following standards are **strongly recommended**:

- 100% fresh air supply – mixed air supplies will be permitted, but the fresh air percentage must still achieve 10 air changes per hour
- Drinking water meets or exceeds the ULAM standard (municipal water passed through a 5.0 μ filter)
- Electrical outlets on ground fault interrupted (GFI) circuits

For aquatic amphibians and fish, the ventilation specifications are not required, and the water, rather than the airflow, must satisfy the animals' temperature requirements. In addition:

- An adequate floor drain must be available
- All electrical outlets must be on ground fault interrupted (GFI) circuits

In addition to addressing these requirements and suggestions, the UCUCA Form “New Animal Housing Facility Commissioning” must be completed and submitted to the UCUCA Office, along with a written scientific justification for the need for an independent animal housing facility, for review and approval by the Committee. [Click here to download the “New Animal Housing Facility Commissioning” form.](#)