

U-M PROGRAM FOR MONITORING ANIMAL FACILITY LIGHT TIMERS

Light can affect the physiology, morphology, and behavior of various animals. In addition, photoperiod is a critical regulator of reproductive behavior in many species of animals and can also alter body-weight gain and feed intake. Therefore, according to the *Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, a time-controlled lighting system should be used to ensure a regular diurnal cycle, and timer performance and timer-overriding systems should be checked periodically to ensure proper cycling. Animal facility management should evaluate the performance of each animal housing room's light timer on a semi-annual basis. If photoperiod is critical to a certain project, it is the responsibility of the Principal Investigator to conduct additional assessments of the illumination system in the particular housing room.

Animal husbandry supervisors should ensure accuracy and compliance with the animal facility illumination requirements of the *Guide* by maintaining appropriate records. In addition, UCUCA members will pay particular attention to possible problems, and records during semi-annual facility inspection visits. Rooms that exhibit a continuing or chronic light control problem will be noted in the inspection report. The responsible administrative unit will be required to have the questionable light control evaluated and, if necessary, corrected. The responsible administrative unit must report findings, corrective actions, and measures taken to prevent recurrence to the UCUCA within 30 days of the issuance of the inspection report. The effectiveness of any necessary corrections will be re-assessed by the UCUCA during follow-up visits. If all rooms in an animal facility unit appear to have proper lighting control, the finding will be so noted in the inspection report.