

U-M PROGRAM FOR MONITORING SANITATION PRACTICES OF ANIMAL HOUSING ROOMS ON REVERSE LIGHT CYCLES

This policy is intended to focus on the efficacy of sanitation practices for animal housing rooms that are on reverse light cycles. Specific information pertaining to monitoring of light timers can be found in the document entitled "UM Program For Monitoring Light Timers". According to the *Guide For The Care and Use of Laboratory Animals*, animal room lighting should provide sufficient illumination to allow for good housekeeping practices, adequate inspection of animals, and safe working conditions for personnel. However, for various scientific reasons, some animal housing rooms need to be on a reverse diurnal light cycle. In general, this would mean that the regular servicing of the room by animal care staff would take place during the dark phase. Because there may not be adequate lighting to allow for assurance of effective room cleaning and disinfection, animal housing rooms that are on a reverse light cycle must have the efficacy of sanitation evaluated periodically during the light phase.

The frequency and intensity of cleaning and disinfection should depend on what is needed to provide a healthy environment for the animal, in accord with its normal behavior and physiologic characteristics, and be in compliance with the standards of the *Guide* and the USDA regulations. Animal care supervisors, in conjunction with investigators requesting reverse light cycles, should develop a set time for the light cycles so that a portion of the light phase occurs during the regular work schedules of the animal care staff; this will allow for a thorough room cleaning and disinfection, full examination of animals, and provide for a safer working environment for the staff. If the animal care staff is only allowed to regularly service the animal housing room in the dark phase, then the efficacy of sanitation practices should be evaluated and documented during the light phase (i.e., after normal working hours) once every two weeks. Sanitation practices and effectiveness for reverse light cycle rooms will be evaluated by the UCUCA during semi-annual inspections of the animal facilities.