Standard Operating Procedure

Emergency procedures will be implemented whenever Central Control is notified of a research animal holding area that exceeds the recommended dry bulb temperature or the humidity norms for common laboratory animals as published in the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals by the National Research Council, Copyright 1996, Fourth Printing May 2000, or PHS policy on the Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals. Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC), and the Standards of the Federal Animal Welfare Act.

Unless DLAM has a specific need for other conditions, like a specific room with unusual needs, the normal temperature for animal holding rooms will be maintained within the range of 70°F to 74°F. Automation control alarm points are to be set at 1°F above and below this range. The normal humidity range is 30% to 70%. Anytime the space conditions of an animal holding area is outside this range it is in alarm and immediate steps shall be taken to correct the problem.

Purpose

To ensure the safety and well being of the animals and to minimize environmental variations that can adversely affect research.

Procedure

1. In the event that the dry bulb temperature, or the humidity, in a animal holding room exceeds the alarm limits set for that room, immediate steps shall be taken to bring that room back into the normal range. Check the air-handling equipment to ensure it is operating in the normal range. Adjust if necessary. Adjust the temperature of the room through the building automation system. If this does not correct the problem and the room drops below 68°F or goes above 76°F, call a technician to make the necessary repairs. If after normal working hours, use the call in procedures. Also, notify all individuals responsible for that area. Always follow alarm message procedure.

   Contact one of the DLAM personnel regarding the problem if conditions continue to worsen (e.g. <65°F, >79°F).

   1st. Kathy Goans 419-866-5217
   2nd. Merle Heineke 419-826-2970
   3rd. Dr. Philip Robinson 419-720-6628

If a physical inspection is needed to assess the actual room conditions DLAM personnel shall direct it, or accompany the Technician while they check the area. This is due to special entry procedures and the sensitive nature of the research in these areas.

Record everything in the Log Book.