

Best Practices for Sanitation of Dog Housing

Sanitation is the combination of cleaning, disinfection and drying to remove dirt and destroy pathogens in the environment and on surfaces. Proper sanitation of housing is essential for the health and welfare of dogs in a shelter. If cleaning and disinfection is not done properly, multiple diseases can spread rapidly, resulting in the loss of life-saving capacity for a shelter.

Cleaning is the removal of organic debris from a surface with a chemical that has detergent properties.

Disinfection is the inactivation of potential pathogens by a chemical that does not necessarily have any cleaning properties. Most disinfectants require clean surfaces for proper killing activity.

The order of cleaning is healthy dogs in adoption first, followed by dogs in stray holding areas, then sick dogs in isolation areas.

Sanitation of Vacated Double Compartment Runs

Vacated runs must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to placement of a new dog. Feces are picked up with a pooper scooper and discarded in a trash bin. Food/water bowls, toys, and bedding should be removed, followed by cleaning all run surfaces, including the door and Kuranda bed, with a detergent solution. A commonly used detergent is Dawn dish detergent. Properly diluted disinfectant is applied to the clean surfaces and bed. The surfaces are rinsed with water after 10 minutes and allowed to air dry or dried with a squeegee and clean towel before placement of a new dog. Fresh sanitized food/water bowls, soft bedding, and toys are added after the surfaces are dry.

Sanitation of Occupied Double Compartment Runs

The central guillotine door is used to confine the dog to the compartment that is not being cleaned. This allows the dog to stay in its house with minimal handling to reduce stress, potential spread of disease, and exposure to water and chemicals.

For cleaning the inside compartment, remove food/water bowls, bedding, toys and clean the run surfaces and Kuranda bed with a detergent. Apply properly diluted disinfectant to the clean surfaces and bed. Rinse with water after 10 minutes and dry with a squeegee and clean towel. Replace the food/water bowls, soft bedding, and toys. Open the guillotine door and confine the dog to the inside compartment. Repeat the cleaning and disinfection steps for the outside compartment.

Recommended Disinfectants for Dog Housing

1. **Bleach** (sodium hypochlorite)
 - a. Effective against all canine pathogens, including parvovirus.
 - b. No detergent properties and must be applied to pre-cleaned surfaces.
 - c. Must be made fresh daily.
 - d. Apply with a sprayer attached to a hose.
 - e. Recommended dilution is 1:32 (4 oz/gallon water)
 - f. Minimum contact time is 10 minutes.

2. **Wysiwash** (calcium hypochlorite)
 - a. Effective against all canine pathogens, including parvovirus.
 - b. No detergent properties and must be applied to pre-cleaned surfaces.
 - c. Must be made fresh daily.
 - d. Apply with the manufacturer's specific sprayer attached to a hose.
 - e. Recommended dilution is 1:32 (4 oz/gallon water)
 - f. Minimum contact time is 10 minutes.
3. **Accel/Rescue** (accelerated hydrogen peroxide)
 - a. Effective against all canine pathogens, including parvovirus.
 - b. Has some detergent activity and can be applied to surfaces with mild organic debris but feces must be removed first. Heavily soiled surfaces must be cleaned first.
 - c. Applied with a foamer.
 - d. Recommended dilution is 1:32 (4 oz/gallon water). Solution is stable for 3 months.
 - e. Minimum contact time is 10 minutes.
 - f. Can use a 1:16 dilution for a contact time of 5 minutes.