

Greyhound Fact Sheet

Frequently Asked Questions

Greyhound Husbandry (Part 2): Sanitation Practice

1. What does ‘sanitation practice’ refer to in a greyhound facility?

Sanitation practice refers to the process of cleaning and disinfecting a greyhound facility to provide an environment that is healthy and comfortable for animals and staff, and prevents disease spread within the facility.

Sanitation practice covers the cleaning and disinfecting processes for:

- i. Enclosures or kennels – which may be slightly different processes for quarantine, isolation and the main housing area.
- ii. Shared areas such as hallways and exercise yards.
- iii. Laundry.
- iv. Dishes, toys & gear – these should not be freely shared between healthy and sick greyhounds.

It is important to have a clearly written and well-understood standard operating procedure so there is a consistent approach to cleaning and disinfecting, which also acts as a tool for training new employees and provides a reference for evaluating effectiveness of human resource use and outbreak prevention.

2. What are the important concepts in sanitizing a greyhound facility?

There are four important concepts when sanitizing a greyhound facility which includes:

- i. Avoid accidentally spreading disease during the cleaning and disinfecting process.
- ii. Minimize stress on the greyhounds during the cleaning and disinfecting process.
- iii. The order of cleaning should proceed from healthy to sick populations and from the young or vulnerable to adult and robust greyhounds.
- iv. Sanitation should always be a three-step process:
 - i. Mechanical removal of visible organic matter which is the first and most important step, as some detergents and disinfectants become ineffective in the presence of organic material such as food, faeces, hair and soil.
 - ii. Detergent cleaning with warm-to-hot water helps remove the majority of environmental pathogens. It is important that this step is thorough, and cleaning occurs on all surfaces (even corners and under bed).
 - iii. Disinfecting is the process of eliminating harmful microorganisms such as virus, bacteria and fungi. Most disinfectants require a specific dilution rate and have a minimum time it should be left on the surface (contact time). Failure to adhere to instructions increases the risk of spreading infectious diseases.

3. What is the best way to clean and disinfect without accidentally spreading infectious disease?

Cleaning and disinfecting is often the busiest, most disruptive and stressful time of the day for both greyhounds and humans. Without proper consideration, there is potential for the spread of disease through use of contaminated equipment, aerosolization from cleaning, clothing or hands.

Separate cleaning supplies and storage areas should be available for each area/zone, particularly in quarantine, isolation and the main housing area. The use of disinfectants on shared mops, poop scoopers, rags and buckets does not prevent the spread of disease.

As explained in the *Greyhound Husbandry FAQ (Part 1): Facility Design*, rostering staff to specific areas or zones for the day, changing clothing between zones, use of disposable protective equipment such as gloves and boot covers and washing hands between zones would help reduce the possibility of disease spread.

4. What is the best way to clean and disinfect without causing significant stress to the greyhounds?

Cleaning and disinfecting is often the busiest, most disruptive and stressful time of the day for both greyhounds and humans. A stressful greyhound is more likely to contract disease due to challenges to its immunity.

Some important consideration that can help minimize stress includes:

- i. Minimize the need to handle the greyhound during this stressful period as it is often a negative handling experience. This can be done by encouraging greyhounds to move to an adjacent enclosure or day yard when a guillotine door system is available.
- ii. Performing sanitation with the same staff to provide familiarity to the greyhounds.
- iii. Performing sanitation at the same time of the day as dogs are less stressed when the day is consistent.
- iv. Ensure the enclosures are never hosed with the greyhounds present as this often increases stress
- v. Greyhounds should not be allowed to freely interact with other greyhounds who are in their enclosures as this may cause agitation and increase stress (and potentially spread disease). Instead place the greyhound directly into a clean kennel or in their own yard for some exercise.
- vi. It is important that good ventilation is maintained, and disinfectants are diluted appropriately to decrease the risk of chemical irritation.

5. What are the various disinfectants available?

There are various products available to help properly clean and disinfect a greyhound facility. The choice of product is dependent upon the infectious disease of concern. It is always important to consult the manufacturer's instructions on appropriate dilution and contact time required on the surface, so the product works properly. A more concentrated disinfectant does not mean more organisms will be killed. It may in fact, be more harmful to both greyhounds and staff.

Some disinfectants may seem more expensive but that is usually because they are sold in a more concentrated form and require a greater dilution.

| Disinfectants | Benefits | Drawbacks |
|--|---|---|
| Bleach/Sodium Hyperchlorite | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inexpensive Effective against some common infectious disease agents Readily available in supermarkets Effective against dermatophytes (ringworm) at 1:10 concentrations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fumes can be irritating to greyhounds and humans Corrosive to metal Ineffective against organic debris such as faeces, soil, dust, hair and food Ineffective when exposed to sunlight or left out for extended periods |
| Oxidizing agents/Potassium peroxymonosulfate/ Virkon®/Trifectant® | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective against some common infectious disease agents They have some detergent activity so effective against organic debris such as faeces, soil and food Less toxic or irritating to both greyhounds and humans Less corrosive to metal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> More expensive than some products Only available from animal suppliers Requires daily preparation of fresh solutions |
| F10 SC® | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective against a wide range of infectious disease agents Diluted solution lasts for a long period of time Non-corrosive & non-toxic Biodegradable & environmentally friendly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relatively expensive product Many 'fake' F10 products in market Only available from certain animal suppliers |
| Calcium hypochlorite (e.g. Wysywash®) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective against a range of infectious disease agents such as parvovirus when used correctly Less corrosive to metal | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No detergent activity Ineffective against organic debris such as faeces, soil, dust hair and food |
| Quaternary Ammonium Compounds/Tornado kennel wash®/ Trigene II® | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective against a wide range of infectious disease agents Usually non-irritating to the skin Non-toxic | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not effective against Ringworm, Canine Parvovirus |

| Disinfectants | Benefits | Drawbacks |
|--|---|---|
| Sodium dichloroisocyanurate/ Bruclean® | Effective against Parvovirus and Calicivirus All-in-one applicator system available to dispense detergent and disinfectant | Ineffective against organic debris such as faeces, soil, dust, hair and food It has no detergent activity on its own |
| Accelerated hydrogen peroxide/Accel® TB | Effective against Canine Parvovirus, Calicivirus Good detergent activity Good activity in the presence of organic debris such as faeces, soil, dust, hair and food (but you should make attempts to clean this before applying the product) Short contact time (1 - 5 mins) compared to most disinfectants Non-toxic, Not odorous | Unconfirmed if active against Ringworm |

6. How should I ‘sanitize’ outdoor areas?

It is impossible to disinfect organic debris such as dirt and grasses. However, there are steps you can take to minimize the spread of infectious diseases in outdoor areas:

- i. Restrict each outdoor area to greyhounds with similar health status (e.g. not sick, vaccination status up-to-date, worming status up-to-date, similar age).
- ii. Faeces should be removed immediately or at a minimum, between greyhounds or daily (whichever is more frequent).
- iii. Standing water should not be allowed to accumulate as many pathogens thrive in these environments, as do vectors such as mosquitoes.