



Community
Veterinary
Outreach



Animal Care Guidelines For Emergency Co-Sheltering

Revised October 2021

Authors

Michelle Lem* DVM, MSc, MSW, RSW

Jennifer King BSc, MEd, MA, RVT

Anne Downes DVM

Marilyn Keaney DVM, PhD, LLB, LLM

Contributors

Patricia Alderson DVM, Cert. LAM

Michelle Groleau BSc, DVM

Cynthia Karsten DVM, DABVP
(shelter medicine practice)

Erin Leonard DVM, PhD

Veterinary reviewers

Nigel Gumley DVM, DAVBP
(canine/feline practice)

Cynthia Karsten DVM, DABVP
(shelter medicine practice)

Susan Kilborn DVM, DVSc, DACVIM
(small animal internal medicine)

Elizabeth O'Brien DVM, DABVP
(feline practice)

Social services reviewers

Bridget Curran BSW, MSW

Christine Kim BSW, MSW

Erin Wasson BSW, MSW

Thank you to the Co-Sheltering Collaborative and My Dog is My Home for supporting the development of these guidelines

www.co-shelteringcollaborative.org

The Animal Care Guidelines for Emergency Co-Sheltering are supported by:



The development of these guidelines was made possible in part by grant funding from:



Learn more at www.petsmartcharities.ca

Book design by:



* Please direct any communications to Michelle Lem (michelle.lem@vetoutreach.org)

Contents

DISCLAIMER	1
PREFACE	2
INTRODUCTION	4
GLOSSARY	10
SECTION 1 - PUBLIC HEALTH AND HYGIENE	12
1.1 Hygiene	12
1.2 Waste management	16
1.3 Cleaning and disinfection	16
1.4 Prevention of animal bites and scratches	17
1.5 Allergen management	19
1.6 Resource list for public health and hygiene	20
SECTION 2 - RECORD KEEPING	22
2.1 Record keeping	22
2.2 Resource list for record keeping	23
SECTION 3 - DOGS	24
3.1 Identification	24
3.2 Food and water	27
3.3 House training	28
3.4 Exercise	29
3.5 Socialization	29
3.6 Room and space	30
3.7 Enrichment	34
3.8 Grooming and hygiene	35
3.9 Health care	35
3.10 Illness and isolation	38
3.11 Pet owner resource - Daily task checklist	40

3.12 Pet owner resource - Daily observation checklist	42
Fecal scoring chart	44
Is the animal calm and relaxed or shut down?	45
Dog language	46
3.13 Cleaning and disinfection	47
Daily spot cleaning	47
Full cleaning	48
3.14 Resource list for dogs	49
 SECTION 4 - CATS	 52
4.1 Identification	52
4.2 Food and water	55
4.3 Litter box	55
4.4 Exercise and socialization	55
4.5 Room and space	57
4.6 Enrichment	61
4.7 Grooming and hygiene	62
4.8 Health care	63
4.9 Illness and housing	65
4.10 Pet owner resource - Daily task checklist	67
4.11 Pet owner resource - Daily observation checklist	69
Fecal scoring chart	71
Cat language	72
Understanding cat behavior	73
Feline grimace scale	74
4.12 Cleaning and disinfection	75
Daily spot cleaning	75
Full cleaning	76
4.13 Resource list for cats	77
 SECTION 5 - SMALL MAMMALS	 80
5.1 Identification	80

5.2 Food and water	82
5.3 Monitoring health	83
5.4 Exercise	84
5.5 Socialization and enrichment	85
5.6 Housing and placement	86
5.7 Health care	89
5.8 Pet owner resource - Daily task and observation checklist	91
Facial grimace scale posters	
Rat	93
Mouse	94
Rabbit	95
5.9 Cleaning and disinfection	96
Daily spot cleaning	96
Full cleaning	97
5.10 Resource list for small mammals	98
 SECTION 6 - CRISIS MANAGEMENT	 100
6.1 Evacuation procedure	100
6.2 Power failure	101
6.3 Water outage	102
6.4 Heating, ventilation and air conditioning failure	102
6.5 Loose animal	103
6.6 Preventing and managing dog fights	104
6.7 Disease outbreak	106
6.8 Resource list for crisis management	107
 REFERENCES	 109
 APPENDICES	 111
A. Template: Community directory	112
B. Pet owner contract considerations	114
C. Sample 1: Pet owner contract/agreement	116

D. Sample 2: Pet owner contract/agreement	119
E. Template: Pet intake form	121
F. Veterinary clinic partnership considerations	122
G. Template: Memorandum of understanding (MOU)	123
H. Light-filtering red film for small mammals	127
I. Protocol for cleaning and disinfecting cages and kennels	129
J. Safety planning with pets	130
K. Public health	132
i. How to stay healthy around pets - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	132
ii. Stay healthy around small pets - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention	133
iii. General precautions zoonotic diseases of companion animals -	134
The Center for Food Security and Public Health	
iv. Zoonotic disease prevention for immunocompromised individuals -	135
The Center for Food Security and Public Health	
v. Principles of infection control - The Center for Food Security and Public Health	136
vi. Transmission routes of zoonotic diseases for companion animals -	137
The Center for Food Security and Public Health	
vii. Select zoonotic diseases of companion animals -	138
The Center for Food Security and Public Health	

Disclaimer and limitation of liability

By receiving, transmitting or in any way making use of this publication, Animal Care Guidelines for Emergency Co-Sheltering (“publication”), you agree to the terms herein. This publication is intended solely as general information that you rely upon at your own risk and sole discretion. The information contained in this publication is not legal or other professional advice. You should seek guidance from qualified legal counsel licensed to practice in your jurisdiction for advice on your particular circumstances or any other professional advice as may be warranted by your sole discretion. You further agree that Community Veterinary Outreach makes no express or implied representation or warranty, either written or oral, as to the accuracy, currency or completeness of any information in this publication. Community Veterinary Outreach disclaims all liability for loss or damage caused by reliance on this publication, or any other material, that has previously been or may in the future be published or revised.

Preface



In North America there is public discussion and a growing recognition of the significance of the human-animal bond between individuals and families experiencing homelessness (including those escaping domestic violence) and their companion animals. As a result, there has been a growing shift in public policy toward emergency co-sheltering people and pets together.

Social service agencies that offer co-sheltering become accountable for the health and welfare of the co-sheltered animals. As well, they are responsible for the health and safety of residents, staff and the general public, particularly in safeguarding against illness from transmissible diseases, injury from animal bites or scratches, animal-related allergies, and exposure to animal waste (this list is not exhaustive). There are currently evidenced-based guidelines for kennels/catteries, animal shelters, veterinary facilities and for responding to disasters. However, no guidelines exist for emergency co-sheltering of pets in human shelters where the primary caregivers are the pet owners themselves.

To address this resource gap, Community Veterinary Outreach gathered a team of veterinarians, veterinary educators, and social workers to develop emergency co-sheltering guidelines for the care of animals in the shelter environment. These guidelines recognize the importance and the interconnectedness of human and animal health among pet owners experiencing homelessness and/or domestic violence and their pets.

The guidelines provide recommendations for the co-sheltering of pets, with a focus on safeguarding the health and well-being of the pets, shelter residents, and shelter staff. These guidelines were developed using available resources, including relevant animal care guidelines, standards of animal care and codes of practice, along with experiential knowledge from veterinarians, veterinary educators, veterinary specialists, and front-line social workers.

It is important to note that these guidelines are intended to be used by shelter management and staff as a supportive guidance document. Shelters are invited to individualize and adapt the guidelines to their context and needs of their shelter, their clients and the animals. The guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive. Rather, it is expected that:

- due to differences between populations served and animal care capacity, not all recommendations will be applicable to all shelters, clients, and animals;
- shelters will choose which recommendations may be applicable to their agency based on their individual needs, the needs of their clients and set up;
- recommendations may be amended by shelters to fit their individual needs as well as the needs of their clients and the client's animals; and
- there may be challenges associated with resource limitations (time, funding, space, etc.) as well as existing policies that may limit or restrict the applicability and implementation ability of some of these recommendations.

Critical to the success of a co-sheltering program is the development of a collaborative relationship between the co-sheltering organization and the local animal-care community. Ensuring access to veterinary care has a dual benefit: supporting the health and well-being of animals as well as protecting public health through appropriate health and safety practices concerning animals.

A housing environment with multiple pets and those of different species cared for independently by many individuals is a unique and complex situation. These guidelines describe recommendations for preventive and interventional programming for daily care, discomfort and distress detection, as well as animal health and crisis management. In so doing, the guidelines serve as an educational resource for shelter staff regarding animal health, welfare and behavior, animal bite/scratch prevention, animal allergen management, and public health and hygiene-related considerations.

It is important to note that the guidelines are not a sole-source document. Local bylaws or other regulations may come into play in co-sheltering projects. It is therefore recommended that any agency contemplating co-sheltering consult with regulatory agencies, including local municipalities, to ensure conformity with bylaws and other regulations or guidelines that may apply.

Introduction



BACKGROUND ON ANIMAL WELFARE

As the status of companion animals in society has grown with the recognition that pets are family members, so has the expectation that their health and welfare be assured. To date, much of our understanding and assurance of animal welfare have been based on the “Five Freedoms”¹ which includes the freedom 1) from hunger or thirst; 2) from discomfort; 3) from pain, injury or disease; 4) from fear or distress; and 5) to express normal behaviors (see diagram on next page).

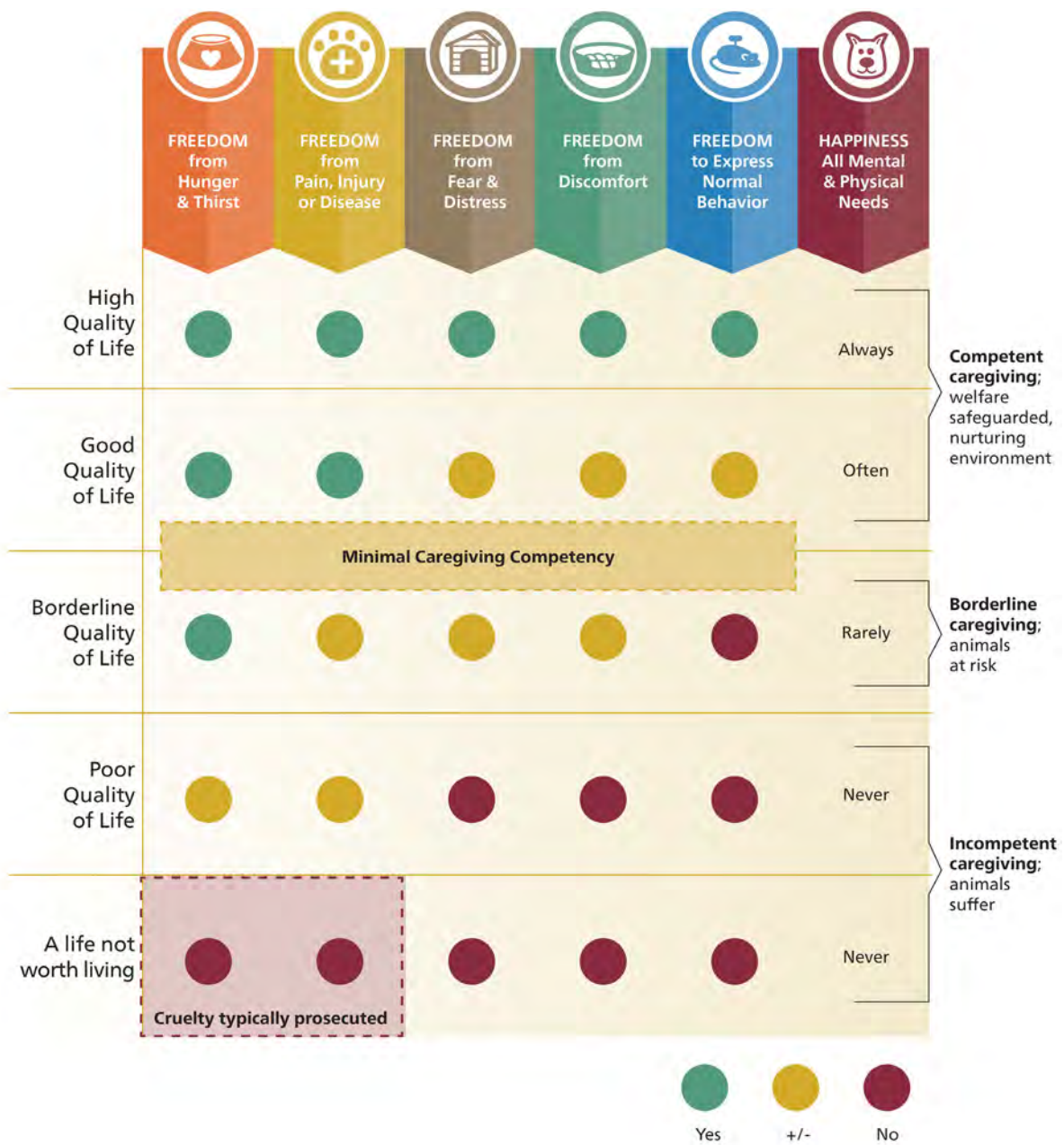
However, just as the World Health Organization has expanded the definition of health for humans to be “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity,”² so too has our definition of animal health and welfare. Therefore, the health and welfare of animals is not solely determined by the absence of, or freedom from, disease, distress, discomfort and pain, but also by their emotional and social (behavioral and natural) well-being.³

These guidelines were developed with the primary consideration for animal health and welfare and with an understanding that there are limitations and restrictions associated with a co-sheltering environment. Other aspects that will influence animal welfare include the individual variation of each animal, individual needs, experiences, behaviors and adaptations, length of stay at the shelter, and the number of significant changes or transitions the pet has experienced. For most animals, the most important aspect of care that we can provide is for them to be safely housed with their owner. For both pet owner and animal companion, the one constant is each other, and this provides them both with a sense of safety and stability.

¹ United Kingdom Farm Animal Welfare Council <https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121010012428/http://www.fawc.org.uk/pdf/fivefreedoms1979.pdf>

² World Health Organization. Definition of Health. <https://www.who.int/suggestions/faq/en/>

³ Fraser D. Assessing animal welfare: Different philosophies, different scientific approaches. *Zoo Biology* 28:507–518, 2009.



Patronek G. 2010. Adapted from FAWC, 2009

Reprinted with permission from Rescue Group Best Practices Guide by Abby Volin. Copyright ©2015 The Humane Society of the United States.

CO-SHELTERING MODELS

Existing models of co-sheltering include having pets reside in individual rooms with their owners, having pets reside with their owner in a dormitory or congregate setting, having pets reside in separate designated animal housing areas within the shelter, or having pets reside in separate buildings or outdoor structures.

The preferred model of co-sheltering is for pets to be kept with their owners in the same individual room (other terms for this include in-room housing or co-sleeping). This model is beneficial not only for the physical and emotional health of the animals and their owners, but also reduces the risk of animal bites or scratches, animal disease outbreaks, disease transmission between animals residing at the shelter, and transmission of diseases between animals and people (zoonoses).

These guidelines were prepared for in-room and designated animal housing (DAH) within the same building. Where there are differences in recommendations for in-room versus designated animal housing models, these recommendations are in shaded boxes. In-room housing recommendations are shaded in yellow and designated animal housing (DAH) recommendations are shaded in light blue (see example below).

IN-ROOM

DAH

As mentioned above, we recognize that other co-sheltering models exist (e.g. separate designated animal housing and dormitory or congregate setting co-sheltering). While this document does not focus on those models of co-sheltering specifically, some of the same recommendations may apply.

If pets are housed in a separate designated animal housing area there are multiple considerations to maximize animal health and welfare and minimize risks to residents and staff, including:

- appropriate separation of species;
- individual spaces and other environmental requirements for each species;
- length of stay;
- hygiene requirements;
- soundproofing; and
- separate heating, ventilation and air conditioning.

Added to this, space must be provided for laundry, pet hygiene, cleaning and housekeeping, waste disposal, food and food preparation, and storage.

The design and planning of designated animal housing areas are beyond the scope of this document. We therefore recommend that agencies engage with other co-sheltering organizations, and designers and contractors who have experience designing animal housing such as animal shelters, veterinary hospitals, and boarding kennels.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Community collaboration is critical to the success of co-sheltering initiatives. Partnerships that support the health and welfare of animals may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Veterinary clinics/hospitals, including 24-hour veterinary emergency clinics
- Certified professional dog trainers, animal behaviorists
- Humane law enforcement
- Animal shelters
- Animal rescue/foster groups and networks
- Pet supply retail stores
- Public health
- Bylaw, animal control
- Animal health/welfare charities
- Veterinary and veterinary technician associations
- Academic institutions with programs in animal health

VETERINARY CARE

It is of utmost importance that any agency offering co-sheltering have access to veterinary care. A partnership agreement should be developed with veterinarians and veterinary clinics that outlines roles, responsibilities, services provided, costs of care (fee structure), billing, media, and fundraising (see Appendices). We recognize the challenges associated with the cost of veterinary care, therefore developing these partnership agreements collaboratively is critical.

Particularly challenging are any costs for veterinary care extending beyond preventive care, treatment of minor conditions, and euthanasia. These include animals with chronic conditions, serious illness or injuries, or those requiring emergency veterinary care. We recommend that agencies develop policies and procedures on how to address challenging situations and discuss this when developing the partnership agreement with veterinary clinics. Funds for medical, surgical and emergency care may be raised through local fundraising events and/or grant applications to animal health and welfare foundations.

Resident pet owners should be made aware of the policies and procedures regarding access and limits to veterinary care.

REPORTING ANIMAL MALTREATMENT

There are typically laws and codes of ethics for certain professions mandating their members to report child abuse or neglect, including social services, law enforcement, physicians, and teachers, however, there is currently no such mandatory reporting of any abuse or neglect of animals among these professions. Co-sheltering agencies have a moral and ethical obligation for the care and treatment of their resident animals. It is therefore recommended that co-sheltering agencies establish policy and procedures to address animal neglect, abuse, and/or cruelty through dialogue with agency leadership, management and staff, as well as local humane law enforcement. Pet owners should be made aware of policies and procedures at intake.

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT FOR ANIMAL CARE

These guidelines were written with the intention that the resident pet owners would be providing care for their own animals. However, we recognize that in co-sheltering, there are greater resource requirements for such care, including an increased workload for shelter staff. Shelter residents may also experience challenges associated with moving into the shelter environment. For example, childcare, attending appointments, seeking stable housing and other obligations may reduce their capacity to care for their pets in shelter. Ideally, co-sheltering agencies can support a staff member whose role is designated to co-sheltering management, however this may not always be possible. Community volunteers who help with the care of co-sheltered animals may be a helpful resource; however, shelters should consider issues of health, safety, risk and liability prior to implementing any volunteer program.

Companion animals entering the shelter may have been exposed to abuse, neglect or trauma (e.g. in domestic violence situations). This, together with the new and stressful shelter environment, may have important impacts on animal behavior. These animals (dogs and cats in particular) may show signs of fear or aggression toward people who are unknown to them, and therefore, present an increased risk for biting or scratching volunteers (or staff) handling them. Animals entering the shelter with unknown health, behavior and vaccination status, as well as the unknown vaccination status of volunteers, may pose additional health and safety concerns.

If shelters are considering a volunteer program to support animal care, it is recommended that volunteers have the appropriate training, experience and knowledge in animal handling and animal health and welfare. Volunteer community resources include local veterinary clinics, veterinary associations and veterinary technician associations. As well, academic institutions may provide training in animal health and

welfare, such as agricultural colleges, veterinary schools, veterinary technician and veterinary assistant programs, and certified professional dog trainers.

PET SPECIES LIMITATIONS

These guidelines provide recommendations for the most common companion animals in North America: dogs, cats, and small mammals (e.g. rabbits and rodents: rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, and guinea pigs). These animal companions are well adapted to live in the same environment as people. Other companion animal species, such as birds, reptiles (e.g. lizards, snakes, and turtles), amphibians (e.g. frogs and toads), fish and other exotic species, require unique care and environmental conditions. Additionally, some may pose a public health risk and are therefore not well-suited to co-sheltering. We recognize that many of these species are pets and we recommend that co-sheltering agencies develop partnerships with local rescue organizations, foster networks, and community services or programs that specialize in the care of these species. It is recommended that a list of current contacts be maintained in a directory (see Appendix A).

STAFF TRAINING

Critical to the success of a co-sheltering program is the adequate training and preparation of all team members. Co-sheltering of pets and people creates a new and complex dynamic. Training is necessary to ensure the health and safety of staff, residents and their animals. Employers are required to provide adequate training to staff and must ensure that workplace/occupational health and safety protocols are followed. As Benjamin Franklin stated, “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” Prevention and risk mitigation via training and education is the key to a successful co-sheltering program. In addition to the use of these guidelines, staff training should include in-person training on key protocols such as public health and disease control; animal health, behavior and welfare; and safely managing aggression in animals. As previously mentioned, having a designated staff member who oversees co-sheltering and related training is ideal if possible.

RESIDENT AGREEMENT FOR PET CARE

The terms and conditions for co-sheltering animals must be clearly understood by pet owners and their family members in the shelter. This includes a full appreciation of the consequences of failing to adequately care for and control pets and maintain proper hygiene in a shelter. This helps ensure that animal care is compliant with shelter standards. It also helps avoid conflicts that could arise between residents, staff and agency representatives from failing to discharge animal care responsibilities.

Glossary

Animal housing unit (housing unit or unit) refers to a single housing space for an individual animal (dog or cat) within a designated animal housing area. For example, a dog run or an individual cat enclosure. (Note: The term “kennel” is purposely not used in this document as in some municipalities the use of this term may create zoning law barriers).

Cat housing area refers to a designated animal housing area that is a fully enclosed room, is designated for housing cats, and has multiple cat housing units.



Cat housing unit complex refers to a structure made up of multiple cat housing units located in the cat housing area, such as the one shown above.



Cage/habitat refers to a fully contained enclosure for housing small mammals, such as the one shown above, that contains all the items a small mammal requires to have good health and welfare, such as food, water, bedding, enrichment activities, exercise, light-filtering huts, and the ability to perform natural behaviors, including nesting and chewing.

Communal living area(s) refers to spaces where residents spend time together. This space may or may not be an area where pets are allowed.

Designated animal housing area refers to an animal housing space that is separate from the animal owners and other shelter residents. Designated animal housing areas may be on a separate floor, in separate room(s), or in separate buildings.

Dog housing area refers to a designated animal housing area that is a fully enclosed room, is designated for housing dogs, and has multiple dog housing units (e.g. dog runs).

Isolation refers to a separate room or housing unit away from other animals where animals can be housed temporarily. Isolated housing is used to control the spread of communicable diseases.

Predator species refers to animals that hunt and eat other mammals, including cats (predatory to all small mammals) and rats (predatory to mice).

Prey species refers to species that are hunted and eaten by other mammals and include most small mammals. Note that some species are both predatory and prey species (e.g. rats).

Residents refers to the persons residing at the emergency shelter.

Small mammals in this document refers to common pet rodents (rats, mice, hamsters, gerbils, and guinea pigs) and rabbits.

Zoonoses or zoonotic diseases are infectious diseases that may be transmitted between animals and people, and include parasitic (e.g. roundworm), fungal (e.g. ringworm), and bacterial infections (e.g. E. coli).

1. Public health and hygiene



1.1 HYGIENE RECOMMENDATIONS

Proper hygiene should be practiced by pet owners, pet family members, and staff in order to prevent transmission of disease between animals and people (zoonoses) and between animals.

Note: Some disinfectants are toxic to animals and care should be taken to ensure that these toxicities are avoided¹.

¹ Ontario SPCA: Shelter Health Pro – Cleaning and Disinfection. Available at: <https://ontariospca.ca/spca-professional/shelter-health-pro/infection-disease-control/cleaning-disinfection/disinfectants-currently-used-by-ontario-spca-animal-centres/>

Hand hygiene

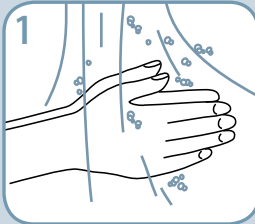
- Proper hand washing is recommended, before entering the communal living or eating areas, following the care of one animal, and before attending to the care of another animal.
- If hands are not visibly dirty, hand sanitizer may also be used.

Laundry hygiene

- Ideally, separate laundry machine and dryer are used for animal bedding and soiled laundry and clothing. Try to avoid overloading the washing machine.
- If separate laundry machine and dryer are not available for pet items, it is recommended that 2 large, clean towels be washed with detergent, hot water and bleach between pet laundry and other loads, then dry on hot setting.
- To remove animal hair, vacuuming of the laundry machine tub is recommended
- Clothes soiled with feces, urine, or vomit should not enter communal living or eating areas.
- Any soiled clothing should be removed and laundered prior to entering communal living or eating areas.
- It is recommended that disposable rubber gloves be worn to remove clothes or bedding that are soiled with feces, urine or vomit.
- Hair, and any solid material from clothes or bedding should be removed prior to placing in washing machine, and the material (e.g. hair, feces, vomit, etc.) disposed of according to waste management recommendations (see 1.2).
- Any bedding or other materials which are considered too soiled to clean adequately should be disposed of.
- Laundering in hot water with detergent containing bleach, and drying on hot setting, are recommended.
- For further information, please see Appendix K - Public health.

HOW TO HANDWASH

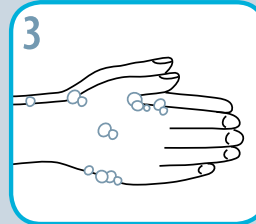
Lather hands for 15 seconds



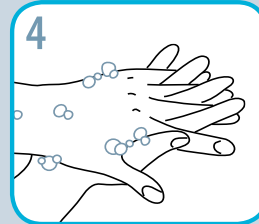
1
Wet hands with warm water.



2
Apply soap.



3
Lather soap and rub hands palm to palm.



4
Rub in between and around fingers.

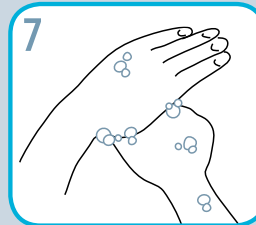
Lather hands for 15 seconds



5
Rub back of each hand with palm of other hand.



6
Rub fingertips of each hand in opposite palm.



7
Rub each thumb clasped in opposite hand.



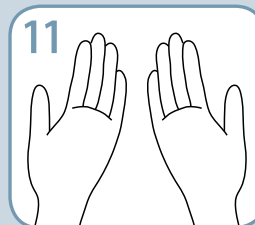
8
Rinse thoroughly under running water.



9
Pat hands dry with paper towel.



10
Turn off water using paper towel.



11
Your hands are now safe.




**JUST CLEAN
YOUR HANDS**

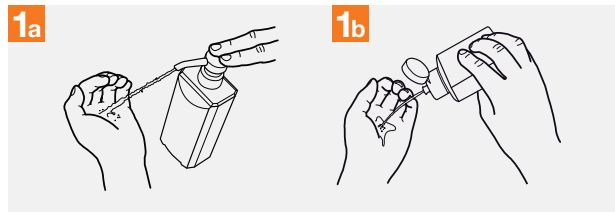
For more information, please contact handhygiene@oahpp.ca
or visit publichealthontario.ca/JCYH



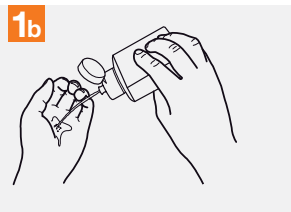
How to Handrub?

RUB HANDS FOR HAND HYGIENE! WASH HANDS WHEN VISIBLY SOILED

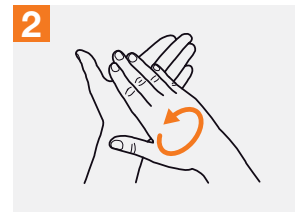
 **Duration of the entire procedure: 20-30 seconds**



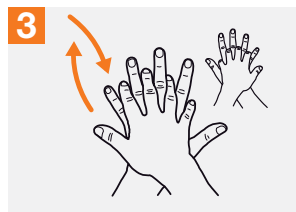
1a Apply a palmful of the product in a cupped hand, covering all surfaces;



1b Rub hands palm to palm;



2 Rub hands palm to palm;



3 Right palm over left dorsum with interlaced fingers and vice versa;



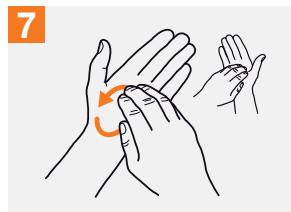
4 Palm to palm with fingers interlaced;



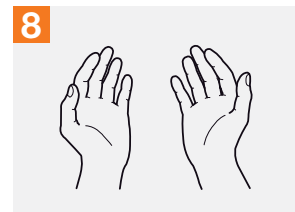
5 Backs of fingers to opposing palms with fingers interlocked;



6 Rotational rubbing of left thumb clasped in right palm and vice versa;



7 Rotational rubbing, backwards and forwards with clasped fingers of right hand in left palm and vice versa;



8 Once dry, your hands are safe.



**World Health
Organization**

Patient Safety
A World Alliance for Safer Health Care

SAVE LIVES
Clean Your Hands

All reasonable precautions have been taken by the World Health Organization to verify the information contained in this document. However, the published material is being distributed without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied. The responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader. In no event shall the World Health Organization be liable for damages arising from its use. WHO acknowledges the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Genève (HUG), in particular the members of the Infection Control Programme, for their active participation in developing this material.

May 2009

1.2 WASTE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Ideally, animal waste (i.e. feces, urine, vomit, dirty cat litter, bedding/shavings) should be removed from the building as soon as possible and placed in designated waste bin(s) available outside. Animal waste should be disposed of in accordance with municipal or local guidelines and by-laws.

- Animal waste and material used to clean up animal waste (e.g. dirty paper towel) should be collected in a leak-proof plastic bag, removed from the building as soon as possible, and placed in designated waste bin(s) outside.
- Where composting facilities exist, compostable material such as bedding from small mammal cages/habitats and cat litter should be disposed of according to municipal guidelines.

1.3 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION RECOMMENDATIONS

The following cleaning and hygiene recommendations may not be common practices for all pet owners. When multiple animals are housed with people the risk of disease transmission between animals and people increases. This is particularly important for residents who may be immunocompromised (e.g. young children, seniors, pregnant women or those with health issues). The following practices are recommended in order to minimize the spread of disease.

In order to prevent the spread of disease between animals, and the transmission of those diseases to humans, it is recommended that all animal areas (i.e. rooms or housing units) be spot cleaned daily and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected if heavily soiled or between animal stays.

- For the duration of a pet stay, it is recommended that pet owners spot clean the room/unit each day.
- A full cleaning and disinfection of rooms/units should be done between pets or if the room is heavily soiled (e.g. due to feces/diarrhea, vomiting).
- Checklists are provided for spot cleaning and full cleaning for dogs, cats and small mammals in their respective sections as a helpful resource for pet owners.
- A Clean up Caddy for each room/unit is recommended (see Resource List at end of this section).
- Pet owners should consider cleaning and disinfecting in the order outlined on the checklists, which is from the cleanest materials to the least clean.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of cleaning areas and supplies (e.g. counters, sinks, tubs, doorknobs, mops, buckets and taps) should be done after each use.



1.4 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ANIMAL BITES AND SCRATCHES

To help prevent animal bites and scratches, it is recommended that staff be trained on animal bite/scratch prevention and handling, and community partnership(s) with an animal trainer or behaviorist established.

In the event of an animal bite or scratch, medical care should be sought immediately (human and/or animal), and the incident reported to the appropriate authority (e.g. Public Health Unit).

Prevention

- Education and training on animal bite/scratch prevention and handling should be provided to staff. Training resources include your local veterinary clinic or certified professional dog trainers.
- It is recommended that access to and support from dog trainer(s) or behaviorist be established to ensure safe handling of pets and address behavioral or training needs.
- All dogs should be on leash and in control when in public areas, including outside.
- It is recommended that dogs not be allowed to meet face-to-face in shared space such as entrances, hallways and elevators.
- It is recommended that pets are only handled by their owner(s), family member or guardian.
- The use of basket muzzles (which allow dogs to pant) are recommended when dogs with aggressive behavior are in public spaces.
- Room checks or inspections should be completed with the pet owner or guardian present.

Animal bite or scratch to a person

- Clean the wound with soap and warm water immediately for 15 minutes.
- Have the bite or scratch looked at by a healthcare provider as soon as possible.
- Report the bite or scratch to the appropriate authorities (e.g. local Public Health Unit).
- A public health unit may request animal information, including the pet's species, breed, age, health status, and vaccination history.

Animal bite or scratch to another animal


- In the event of an animal bite or scratch to another animal, veterinary care should be sought.
- Report animal to animal altercations to appropriate authorities (e.g. Public Health Unit)





1.5 ALLERGEN MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Reducing animal-related allergens will support a healthy and inclusive shelter environment.

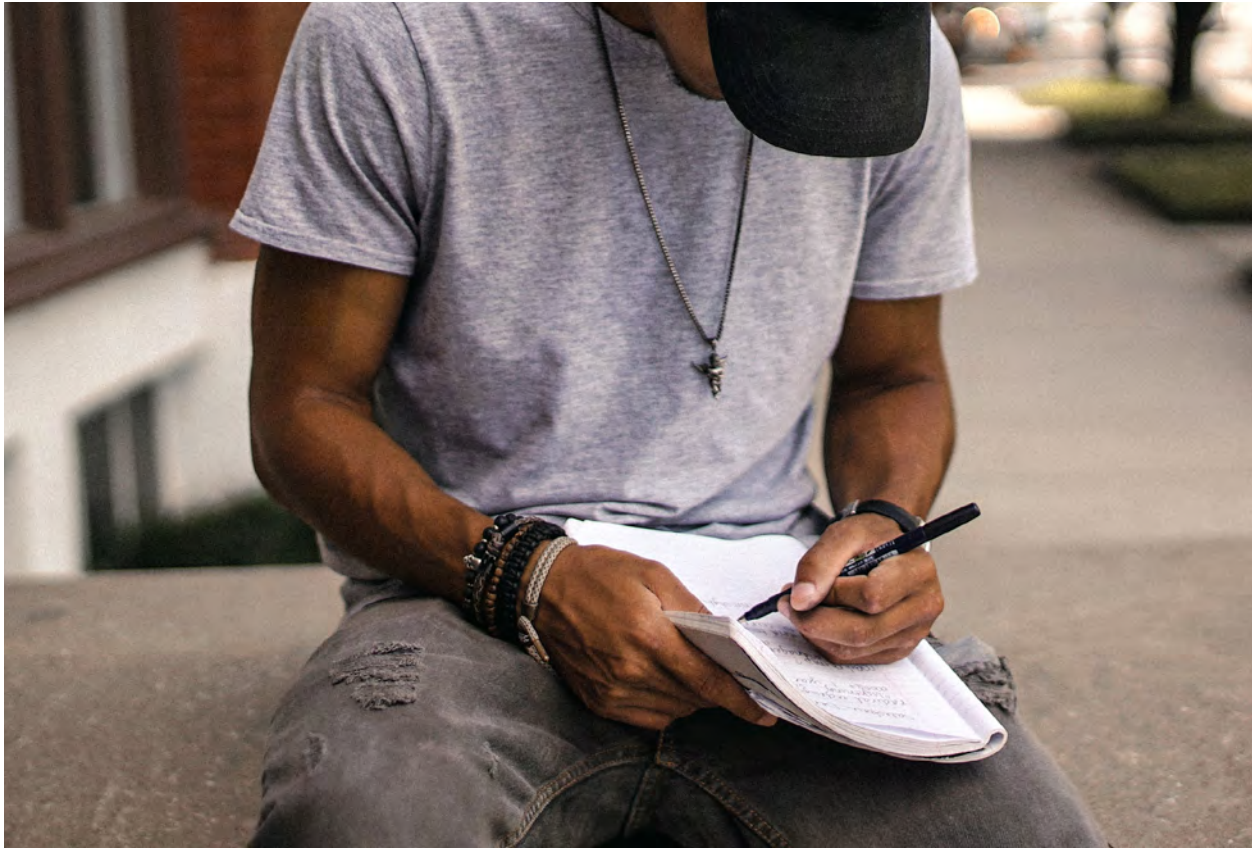
- Use of appropriate-sized Pure HEPA air purifiers is recommended in rooms housing animals. Air purifier filters should be changed regularly.
- If possible, air should flow from the door (exit) into the room.
- Regular grooming of animals, and spot cleaning of room is suggested to minimize animal hair and dander that may enter common or shared areas.
- Regular vacuuming of rooms and furniture (e.g. upholstered furniture should be vacuumed three times per week), using a HEPA filtered vacuum cleaner model designed for use with animals, should be considered.
- If available, a separate laundry machine and dryer for animal bedding and soiled clothing, should be used.
- If separate laundry/dryer is not available, it is recommended that a load of clean towels be washed using hot water, laundry detergent and bleach in between wash loads for animals and people. Drying using a hot setting, and dryer sheet to reduce static and collect hair in dryer filter, should also be considered. Dryer filter should be cleaned between wash loads to prevent fire hazard. Any remaining animal hair in laundry and dryer machine may be removed using a vacuum.
- It is recommended that a sticky roller be used to remove animal hair from clothing before entering common areas.
- Proper hand hygiene will also help manage allergen spread.
- It is suggested that pillows, bedding and mattress covers be cleaned regularly.
- Bathing pets periodically to reduce allergens could also be considered.

1.6 RESOURCE LIST

Item	Comments	Sources
Hand soap		Available for purchase at any household or hardware store
Hand Sanitizer (e.g. Purell™ Touch-Free Wall Mount.)	Minimum of 60% alcohol concentration	
Disposable non-latex rubber gloves	Varying sizes	
Separate laundry and dryer machine, if possible		
Laundry detergent containing bleach		
Designated waste bins with covers for animal waste	All waste containing feces or vomit is placed immediately in designated outside bin	
Leak-proof bags for animal waste	Available inside and outside	
Clean up Caddy Contents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disposable rubber gloves • Paper towel • Accelerated hydrogen peroxide pre-mixed spray and wipes • Dish detergent (e.g. Dawn®) • Scrub brush • Metal spatula or spackling knife (to pick up feces/vomit from floor) • Small broom/dustpan • Garbage bags 	For each room 	

Item	Comments	Sources
Dish Detergent		
Paper towel		Available for purchase at any household or hardware store
Dish soap		
Accelerated hydrogen peroxide solution and wipes 	Ready to use (to avoid dilution errors)	Rescue® (U.S.) Prevail® (Canada) Available for purchase at www.viroxanimalhealth.com
Scrub brush 		Available for purchase at www.homedepot.com
Broom & Dustpan		Any household or hardware store
Hand vacuum		
Scrub brush for dog housing units 		Available for purchase at www.homedepot.com
Basket Muzzles for dogs 	Varying sizes	Pet supply retailer

2. Record keeping



2.1 RECORD KEEPING RECOMMENDATIONS

Ideally, all intake and/or veterinary referral forms, client agreements/waivers, pet health records are kept in a central location accessible by pet owners and staff.

- It is recommended that all documents related to pets housed at the shelter (e.g. completed intake and/or veterinary referral forms, pet owner agreements/waivers, pet health records) be kept in a single binder for each pet owner.
- Records and documents could also be maintained electronically.
- Pet owners should be responsible for reporting any health or other animal-related issues to staff.
- It is helpful if all records pertaining to animals be complete and available for review by the veterinary team.
- A white board is recommended to track animals that require medication, veterinary care, extra monitoring, or other concerns that require monitoring by staff.

2.2 RESOURCE LIST FOR RECORD KEEPING

Item	Comments	Sources
Binders	1 binder per pet owner	Available for purchase at any office supply retailer
Dividers	For multiple pets	
3-hole punch		
White board and dry erase markers		

3. Dogs



3.1 IDENTIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- All dogs staying in the shelter should have appropriate identification on the room or housing unit/area in which the dog is staying, and on the dog's collar.
- Identification tags with previous address should be removed from dogs' collars.
- All dogs should have identification tags with temporary contact information (e.g. Crisis Line or shelter phone number) taped/attached to a collar (or agency tags provided).
- Collars and tags should be inspected daily to ensure that they are in good condition and cannot get accidentally caught or tangled in crates or housing unit door.
- If not already microchipped, it is recommended that dogs be microchipped at the first veterinary appointment and registered with appropriate contact information (e.g. Crisis Line, shelter, veterinary clinic, emergency contact (if available)) (see 3.9).
- Leashes/harnesses/grooming tools should be marked with the name of the owner and pet. Items should not be shared between animals from different households.

IN-ROOM

- “Dog in room” or similar type of identification should be indicated on the outside of the door to rooms housing dogs. A note on the dog’s temperament should also be included on the identification, such as in cases where a worker needs to enter the room

ID EXAMPLE: DOG IN ROOM

(placed on outside of door)



ID EXAMPLE: PET ID TEMPLATE

(placed on inside of door of room housing pet or outside of animal housing area and/or unit)

Owner name: _____		Pet Name: _____	
Breed /Species/Description: _____			
Sex/ Spayed or Neutered _____		Age _____	
Date of Admission: _____		Date of Vet Exam: _____	
Health/Behavior Issues: _____			
Medications: _____			
Comments: _____			

- Any medical conditions, restrictions (e.g. food allergies), warnings (e.g. fearful), or special needs should be noted on the Pet ID form.
- If more than one dog is housed in a shared unit, a separate Pet ID form should be posted for each dog.
- Pet ID template can be amended to include/exclude any information that the shelter deems necessary and to protect confidentiality.

IN-ROOM

- Pet Identification (ID) and information should be posted on the inside of the door of the room housing the dog.

DAH

- Pet Identification (ID) and information should be posted on the outside of the door of both the individual housing unit and the door to the housing area.



3.2 FOOD AND WATER RECOMMENDATIONS

All dogs should receive the appropriate diet for life stage and/or medical conditions, with appropriate frequency and amount. Clean fresh water should always be available.

- Ideally dogs remain on the same diet/food (e.g. brand/type of food that they are used to) that they were fed prior to entering the shelter, unless otherwise recommended by veterinarian (e.g. allergies, sensitivities, other conditions).
- Due to public health risks, dogs should not be fed raw food diets.
- Amount of food fed should be based on the individual pet's life stage and condition.

- It is recommended that puppies over 4-months-old, adult dogs (over 1 year of age) and senior dogs be fed twice daily (morning and evening).
- It is recommended that puppies (less than 4-months-old) be fed 3-4 times daily.
- Feeding bowls should be cleaned daily.
- Clean fresh water should always be available, changed daily and replenished as needed. Water bowls should be cleaned regularly.
- Hands should be washed thoroughly following feeding and cleaning, and between feeding and cleaning of different animals.

3.3 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HOUSE TRAINING

Dogs should be provided with several opportunities each day to urinate/defecate. This prevents health problems (e.g. urinary issues), house soiling and maintains house training and hygiene.

- Ideally, healthy adult dogs are taken outside to urinate/defecate a minimum of 3 times daily, spaced evenly throughout the day and before bedtime.
- Puppies (less than 6-8 months), senior dogs, or those with medical conditions usually require more opportunities to urinate/defecate. Puppies will likely need to urinate and/or defecate soon after eating, playing, and waking from sleep.
- Alternatives to outdoors urinating/defecating can include the use of “puppy pads” or “wee pads”, litter training of small dogs, or Potty Patch® (see Resource List). Used/soiled pads should be replaced as soon as possible.
- Dogs that are not house trained should be provided an opportunity to go outside to urinate/defecate as often as possible. Consistently giving them a treat immediately after they urinate/defecate outdoors will speed up house training.
- If the dog has soft stool or diarrhea, he/she should be taken outside as often as possible to prevent indoor soiling.
- Veterinary checks should be scheduled for dogs with diarrhea.
- Fecal waste should be picked up immediately.
- Designated areas for pet urination/defecation should be clearly marked and communicated to pet owners.
- Leak-proof waste bags and designated garbage bins should be made readily available in areas where pets urinate/defecate.
- Hands should be thoroughly washed after picking up any fecal waste.
- Waste should be disposed of according to appropriate waste management guidelines (see 1.2).

3.4 EXERCISE RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure good health, it is important for dogs to receive an adequate amount of physical activity based on their typical routine (i.e. what the dog is used to), and the dog's age, size, health and activity level.

- A general rule of thumb is that young, active, and healthy dogs receive 20 minutes of aerobic exercise, 2-3 times daily (e.g. dog walks, playing, fetch/ball throw).
- Dogs that are anxious, or are used to a lot of exercise, benefit from increased activity levels.
- Indoor exercise/play can include playing tug, teaching tricks and doing obedience exercises.
- Senior and overweight dogs may be gradually introduced to increasing exercise.
- It is recommended that pet owners wait 30 minutes after feeding to exercise dogs.
- Note: Dogs that are housed in a designated animal housing area away from their owners will benefit from more exercise/play.

3.5 SOCIALIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Maximizing the time that pet owners spend with their dog(s) will contribute to good pet health and welfare.

- Spending time with their owners is important to the dog's physical and emotional health and helps them adjust to being at the shelter.
- Socialization includes exercise, play, grooming, physical contact, and spending time together in their room or other pet-friendly areas.
- Note: Dogs housed in a designated animal housing area away from their owner will benefit from more time spent with their owner.



3.6 ROOM AND SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Factors to consider when selecting which room or housing unit to place a dog include appropriate-sized or located room/unit based on the dog's size, height, temperament, and/or health condition.
- Dogs benefit from being in different environments (e.g. a separate activity area) throughout the day and ideally are not kept in the room or housing unit for extended periods of time, except during nighttime.
- Ensuring dogs get appropriate amounts of play/exercise reduces stress.

Set up

- Dog beds that can be easily cleaned/washed should be provided to all dogs. E.g. Perla® beds (see Resource Section) or the bottom of a dog kennel lined with soft bedding (blanket), unless they are known to eat their bedding.
- Bedding should be checked daily for signs of chewing.
- Some dogs prefer hiding when they first arrive in the shelter or when stressed. A crate or kennel carrier (door removed) with soft bedding inside and top covered with a blanket may be provided.
- For dogs that are used to spending time in their crate/carrier, the crate with bedding can be left in the room or housing unit with the door removed for the duration of the stay.
- Place any bedding that the dog arrived at the shelter with, in the room with the dog.
- Food and fresh water should be provided as per Food and Water section (see 3.2).

Pheromone diffuser - Adaptil®

- To reduce stress and help dogs get used to their new environment, a pheromone diffuser such as Adaptil® is recommended. If available, the diffuser should be placed in a location free from barriers that will prevent adequate circulation.
- Diffusers need to be refilled every 30 days and checked daily to ensure they are plugged in all the way, the wick is not broken or damaged, and that there is nothing blocking the diffuser.

Multiple dogs in a single space

- Generally, if there are multiple pets, more space will be required.
- If there are multiple dogs in a room or housing unit, there should be enough space so that there is no competition over resources (e.g. beds, open space, food) which could lead to aggression between dogs.
- Even if dogs have lived well together in the past, small spaces and competition over resources can sometimes lead to aggression.
- If there are multiple dogs in a single space, it is recommended that they are not left alone with high-value items such as food or toys, as this could lead to fighting over these items. It is recommended that dogs are monitored by their owners when being fed and have toys.
- Careful monitoring of each dog's temperament is important especially when there are multiple dogs in a room or housing unit.

Size

- Rooms that house dogs and clients should be large enough to contain pet items (e.g. crate or bed, dishes etc.) and still have a clear path for entry and exit.
- There should be enough open space for the dog to lay stretched out lengthwise completely.

Temperament or condition

- Temperament or condition of dogs is an important consideration especially if there are multiple dogs in a room.
- Very shy or nervous healthy dogs, and easily stimulated dogs (e.g. reactive barking), should ideally be placed in a room where there is less noise and foot traffic, if possible.
- If a dog needs to be monitored for health or behavior, the dog should ideally be placed in a room that allows easy and convenient monitoring, if possible (e.g. in a quiet room with a window in the door and/or a quiet room closer to staff office).
- If young children are sharing the room, they should be supervised in all interactions with the dog(s) and not left alone in the room with the dog(s).

Size

- The dog housing unit at minimum should allow for adequate height to ensure that the dog can jump up without hitting its head, and that allows a person to easily enter and clean the enclosure.
- Width of the housing unit at minimum should allow enough room for the dog to lay stretched out lengthwise completely.

Temperament or condition

- It is recommended that very shy healthy dogs be provided with units where they may feel safer by hiding out of direct view.
- It is recommended that easily stimulated dogs (e.g. reactive barking) be housed where they are not in the direct line of sight of the main entry door.
- If a dog needs to be monitored for health or behavior, it is recommended that the dog is placed in a unit that allows for easy visual monitoring from outside the door without having to enter the room or disturb them.

Temperature and humidity

- Temperature and humidity monitors should be present in the housing area and monitored or recorded daily (see Daily Task Checklist for Dogs (3.11)).

Light/dark recommendations

Ideally, dogs should receive adequate amounts of light and dark that closely mimic day and night.

- At minimum, lighting provided should be 8 hours per day. Natural light is preferred however care should be taken to maintain stable temperature and prevent overheating of housing area and unit, especially where dogs cannot move away from the hot areas.
- At maximum, lighting should be comparable to the length of natural daylight hours.
- At minimum, the dog housing area should have no lighting (a period of dark) for at least 8 consecutive hours at nighttime to ensure good quality rest.¹

¹ Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (2018). A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations 3rd Ed. Available at: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/Code-of-Practice-for-Canadian-Kennel-Operations>

3.7 ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that dogs be provided with appropriate and safe toys and enrichment activities to allow them to exhibit natural behaviors (e.g. chewing), be active and stimulated, and ensure their health and welfare.

- Enrichment activities include food puzzle, toys and stuffed Kongs®.
- To prevent accidental ingestion, all toys should be of the appropriate size for the dog, and in good condition.
- Toys that are appropriate for the individual dog's chewing style should be selected (see Resource List for chewing style).
- Dogs should be supervised or monitored while chewing toys.
- All toys should be removed before bedtime.
- When there are multiple dogs in a room, it is recommended that toys be removed when the dogs are left alone in the room to avoid fighting over the toys.
- Note: Dogs housed in a designated animal housing area will benefit from increased opportunities for enrichment (e.g. enrichment activities twice daily).



3.8 GROOMING AND HYGIENE RECOMMENDATIONS

Regular brushing or grooming of dogs is a form of socialization and reduces hair and allergens in the environment.

- It is recommended that dogs with long hair coats be brushed weekly, with more frequent targeted brushing to remove any matts.
- Check groin area and area under the tail daily to ensure the hair is clean and the skin is not red or irritated.
- Dogs whose hair coat is molting/shedding should be brushed more frequently.
- Grooming tools should not be shared between animals from different households.
- Dogs who have soiled themselves with feces, urine, or vomit should be bathed (dog shampoo, rinse) and dried thoroughly.
- To prevent possible skin infections, ensure that the dog is completely dry after bathing including around their neck and underside.

3.9 HEALTH CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that all dogs receive a veterinary health examination and preventive care within 24 hours of entering the shelter.

Dog owners should note any physical and/or behavioral health issues of their dog(s) and notify staff so that veterinary care can be arranged.

- All dogs over 3-months of age should be up to date on rabies vaccinations.
- All dogs should be up to date on Distemper, Hepatitis, Parvovirus and Bordetella vaccinations.
- Preventive veterinary care includes the following: examination, vaccination (DA2PP, Rabies, Bordetella) if required, deworming, treatment of external parasites as required (e.g. fleas, ticks, mites, lice) and scanning for a microchip.
- Depending on vaccine history and length of stay at the shelter, booster vaccinations may be required, based on veterinary advice.
- If the dog has a microchip, contact the microchip registry (<http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org/>) to change the contact phone number to the Crisis Line or shelter phone number, emergency contact (if available), and/or veterinary clinic while the dog is at the shelter. The microchip number should also be noted on the medical record.
- If no microchip is present, it is recommended that a microchip be inserted and registered with appropriate contact information such as crisis line, shelter or emergency contact (if available), and/or veterinary clinic. This information will need to be updated when the owner leaves the shelter.

- Medical records should be maintained by the shelter in electronic or paper format (i.e. in binder), including any past records or information (e.g. vaccination record)
- A white board placed in an area available to pet owners and staff is recommended to track animals that require medication, veterinary care, extra monitoring, or other concerns that require monitoring by staff.
- Intact male and female dogs over 4 months should not be housed in the same room/housing unit in order to avoid unwanted pregnancy. Spay/neuter should be discussed with a veterinarian at the intake examination.

A veterinarian should be consulted if a dog shows any of the following signs, or if there are any other concerns of the owner:

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight loss • Lethargy (quiet, not him/herself, doesn't want to do the things he/she normally does (e.g. go for walks) • Fever or dog feels warm • Persistent hiding (after being given time to settle into new environment) • Pain or discomfort (e.g. vocalizing when getting up or picked up, or not able to settle or rest quietly) • Difficulty getting up or walking, unsteady gait, falling over • Whimpering/crying
Gastrointestinal (Stomach, intestine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not eating for more than 24 hours or decreased appetite • Diarrhea or vomiting or attempting to vomit • Difficulty or straining to defecate • Black or tarry-looking stool • Swollen or distended abdomen • Won't settle down/difficulty lying down • No defecation for more than 24 hours • Excessive vocalization

Eyes, ears, skin, muscle, bone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury or lameness • Open wounds or bleeding • Scratching more than usual; shaking head more than usual • Bad odor from ears or skin • Overgrooming • Hair loss/Redness of skin • Redness or swelling of eyes or ears • Discharge from eyes or ears • Skin debris, dandruff, or parasites (e.g. fleas)
Cardio/Respiratory (Heart, lungs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noisy, difficulty, or labored breathing, inappropriate panting • Coughing or sneezing • Exercise intolerance
Urogenital (Kidney, bladder, genitals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking more than usual • Not drinking for more than 24 hours • Urinating more than usual • Blood in urine or difficulty or straining to urinate • No urination for more than 12 hours • White or bloody discharge from genitals
Neurological (Nervous system)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakness, paralysis, tremors, seizures • Uncoordinated, falling over, difficulty walking in a straight line • Droopy face • Difficulty swallowing

3.10 ILLNESS AND ISOLATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Suspected cases of Parvovirus in puppies or unvaccinated dogs should be isolated in their room, separate crate or housing unit and carefully monitored until veterinary care can be arranged. Veterinary care is required immediately in cases of suspected Parvovirus as this is a life-threatening disease.

If Kennel cough is suspected, the dog should also be isolated and kept away from other dogs until veterinary care can be arranged.

There must be NO contact between dogs.



Parvovirus

- Parvovirus is an infectious disease seen mainly in unvaccinated dogs and puppies and can rapidly lead to death.
- Signs include watery diarrhea (which may be bloody), bloated belly, not eating, lethargy and vomiting.
- If these signs appear in an unvaccinated dog or puppy, provide warm soft bedding, and keep separate from other dogs and foot traffic.
- Call to arrange veterinary care immediately. Parvovirus infection is life-threatening.
- Try to coax the dog to drink unflavored Pedialyte® with a small amount of low-fat chicken or beef broth.
- Continue to carefully monitor the dog (e.g. follow daily task checklist and observation checklists).
- Take the dog out to urinate/defecate in a separate area away from other dog walking/exercise areas as often as necessary until veterinary care is sought, then follow veterinary advice.
- Contaminated outdoor areas (grassy areas and hard surfaces) should be disinfected by spraying the area thoroughly with an accelerated hydrogen peroxide product (e.g. Prevail®/Rescue® see Resource Section). Grassy areas where dogs with Parvovirus have defecated should be avoided by puppies and recently vaccinated dogs.
- Indoor areas (walls, doors, floors) and other hard-surfaced items (e.g. crate/carrier) should be sanitized using accelerated hydrogen peroxide (See “Full Cleaning” recommendations at the end of this section).
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling ill dogs. Care should also be taken to avoid spreading infection through contaminated footwear and clothing.

Kennel cough

- Kennel cough is a disease complex that can be spread through the air and contact. Signs of kennel cough include dry hacking cough that may occur when the dog pulls on its collar or barks.
- If these signs appear, the dog should be isolated with no contact with other dogs.
- Call to arrange veterinary care immediately.
- Continue to monitor the dog (e.g. follow daily task checklist and observation checklists).
- Indoor areas (walls, doors, floors) and other hard-surfaced items (e.g. crate/carrier) should be sanitized using accelerated hydrogen peroxide (See “Full Cleaning” recommendations at the end of this section).
- Wash hands thoroughly after handling ill dogs.

IN-ROOM

Isolation

- Isolate dog to the owner's room.

DAH

Isolation

- Isolate dog in a separate room (e.g. in a softly bedded crate) away from other dogs.
- If this is not possible, separate the dog by one housing unit from other dogs until veterinary care is provided. Cover the door of the neighboring dog housing units to prevent spread.

3.11 PET OWNER RESOURCE - DAILY TASK CHECKLIST FOR DOGS

The Daily Task Checklist for Dogs provided may be helpful for families to divide and share pet caretaking activities, as a general guide for pet owners or for pet-sitters or pet caretaking by someone other than the owner. This checklist is intended to be an optional resource for pet owners and pet-owning families.

Note: The use of checklists is recommended for dogs that are kept in a designated animal housing area.

- The Daily Task Checklist for Dogs may be completed throughout the day by the pet owner/caregiver as tasks are completed or may be used as a general guide.
- Completed Checklists may be kept with the other pet-related documents.
- This checklist can be amended to be specific for an individual pet and/or client.

DAILY TASK CHECKLIST FOR DOGS

Date: _____

Task	Check when done ✓				Recommendations
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Bedtime	
Outside to urinate/defecate					3 times daily/as needed
Play/Walk/Exercise					2 times daily
Clean/Tidy room/unit					Daily/as needed
Wash bowls					Daily
Feed/water					Twice daily
Enrichment toys					Twice daily
Spend time with pet					
Grooming					Weekly/as needed
Wash bedding					As needed
Room Temp check		°C			Once daily (if applicable)
Pheromone Diffuser Check					Once daily - Replace when empty (every 30 days)
Medications					As prescribed
Notes:					

3.12 PET OWNER RESOURCE – DAILY OBSERVATION CHECKLIST

The Daily Observation Checklist provided may be a helpful resource to assess the health of a pet, monitor the health of a pet over time, monitor illness and/or unwell pets and their recovery, and record any abnormalities which will be useful to share with the veterinarian. This checklist is intended to be an optional resource for pet owners and pet-owning families.

Note: The use of checklists is recommended for pets that are kept in a designated animal housing area.

- The Daily Observation Checklist may be completed twice daily (AM and PM) by the pet owner/caregiver to assess health, and monitor health, illness, and/or recovery from illness.
- Completed Checklists may be kept with the other pet-related documents. Pet owners should notify staff if there are abnormal observations and/or other signs that their pet requires veterinary care.
- This checklist can be amended to be specific for an individual pet.
- The following infographics will assist pet owners in completing the Daily Observation Checklist:
 - Fecal scoring system¹ (Dogs with feces scores of 1, 6, or 7 should have veterinary care arranged)
 - Calm & Relaxed? Or Shut Down²
 - Doggie Language²

¹ Reprinted with permission from Purina

² Reprinted with permission from Lili Chin and available at <http://www.doggiedrawings.net/freeposters>

DAILY OBSERVATION CHECKLIST (2 DAYS)

Pet Name:		DAY 1		DAY 2	
		Time:		Time:	
		AM	PM	AM	PM
Appetite: dry food	Normal				
	Nibbling				
	Not eating				
Appetite: wet food	Normal				
	Nibbling				
	Not eating				
Stools	Formed				
	Diarrhea				
	Bloody				
	None				
Urine	Normal				
	Excessive				
	Bloody				
	Straining				
	None				
Vomiting	None				
	Food				
	Bile				
	Foam				
	Other:				
Coughing	No				
	Yes				
Sneezing	No				
	Yes				
Nasal discharge	None				
	Clear				
	Cloudy/Green/Yellow				
	Blood				
Eyes	Clear				
	Pus/mucus				
	Red/irritated				
	Swollen				
Behavior	Friendly				
	Scared/shy				
	Listless/depressed				
	Aggressive/Fearful				
	Painful				
	Urination indoors				
	Bowel movement indoors				
Notes:					

Fecal Scoring Chart

SCORE	SPECIMEN EXAMPLE	CHARACTERISTICS
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Very hard and dry · Often expelled as individual pellets · Requires much effort to expel from body · Leaves no residue on ground when picked up
2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Firm, but not hard, pliable · Segmented in appearance · Little or no residue on ground when picked up
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Log shaped, moist surface · Little or no visible segmentation · Leaves residue on ground, but holds form when picked up
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Very moist and soggy · Log shaped · Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Very moist but has a distinct shape · Present in piles rather than logs · Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Has texture, but no defined shape · Present as piles or spots · Leaves residue on ground when picked up
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Watery · No texture · Present in flat puddles

CALM and RELAXED? or SHUT DOWN?



Body Language References

eileenanddogs.com/2013/11/21/shut-down-dogs-part-2/
<https://paws4udogs.wordpress.com/2013/08/12/belly-rub-redux/>
 Illustrations ©2016 Lili Chin

DOGGIE LANGUAGE

starring Boogie the Boston Terrier



ALERT



SUSPICIOUS



ANXIOUS



THREATENED



ANGRY



"PEACE!"
look away/head turn



STRESSED
yawn



STRESSED
nose lick



"PEACE!"
sniff ground



"RESPECT!"
turn & walk away



"NEED SPACE"
whale eye



STALKING



STRESSED
scratching



STRESS RELEASE
shake off



RELAXED
soft ears, blinky eyes



"RESPECT!"
offer his back



FRIENDLY & POLITE
curved body



FRIENDLY



"PRETTY PLEASE"
round puppy face



"I'M YOUR LOVEBUG"
belly-rub pose



"HELLO I LOVE YOU!"
greeting stretch



"I'M FRIENDLY!"
play bow



"READY!"
prey bow



"YOU WILL FEED ME"



CURIOUS
head tilt



HAPPY
(or hot)



OVERJOYED
wiggly



"MMM...."



"I LOVE YOU,
DON'T STOP"

© 2011 Lili Chin www.doggiedrawings.net

lili

3.13 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION - DAILY SPOT CLEANING CHECKLIST

Name: _____




Action	✓
Put on gloves.	
Remove food and water bowls and let soak in a sink of warm soapy water for 5 minutes. Wash and rinse dishes thoroughly.	
Remove any feces and/or urine with paper towel and put into leak-proof bag. Discard in designated garbage bin outside. Use warm water and dish soap to clean the floor of the room where there was feces or urine.	
Remove any dirty blankets/towels/beds and wash in the washing machine using hot water and detergent with bleach. Place in dryer on hot setting until completely dry. Do not overload the washing machine or dryer.	
Use a broom/dustpan or Swiffer® to remove any loose fur or dirt from floor and throw in waste bin. If the dog is not in the room, use vacuum for fur/dirt removal.	
Clean any marks on walls/door with warm water and dish soap on a paper towel.	
Throw used gloves into garbage and wash hands thoroughly.	
Replace clean blankets/towels/beds, if needed.	





3.13 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION - FULL CLEANING CHECKLIST



Name: _____

Action	✓
Put on gloves.	
Remove food, water bowls, washable toys (e.g. Kong®) and grooming tools and let soak in a sink of warm soapy water for 5 minutes. Wash and rinse items thoroughly.	
Remove all blankets/towels/beds and fabric toys, and wash in the washing machine using hot water and detergent with bleach. Place in dryer on hot setting until completely dry. Do not overload the washing machine or dryer.	
Remove any feces and/or urine with paper towel and put into a leak-proof bag. Throw in designated garbage bin outside.	
Sweep/vacuum floor of any fur, dirt or debris.	
Clean floors, walls and door with warm soapy water and scrub brush. Rinse soap off and let dry.	
Spray or wipe floor, walls, door/handle with accelerated hydrogen peroxide. Let sit for 5 minutes before wiping dry with paper towel or let air dry.	
Wash plastic dog bed base (e.g. Perla® dog bed) with soapy water (use small scrub brush if required). Rinse with warm water and let dry.	
Spray plastic dog bed base (e.g. Perla® dog bed) with accelerated hydrogen peroxide spray. Let sit for 5 minutes before wiping dry with paper towel.	
Throw used gloves into garbage and wash hands thoroughly.	

3.14 RESOURCE LIST

Item	Comments	Sources
Agency dog tags (or collars) (recommended)	Tags/collars with crisis line/ shelter, and/or emergency contact	Search “custom pet tags”
Flat collars and leashes (Note: choke, pinch, or prong collars are discouraged)	Varying sizes	Donated or pet supply retailer
Head halters and harnesses 	For dogs that are difficult to walk or control	Halti® or Gentle Leader® Easy Walk® Harness (PetSafe®) www.petsafe.net/easywalk
Stainless steel dog bowls		Donated or pet supply retailer
Dog beds		Donated or pet supply retailer
Perla® Dog beds 	For designated animal housing unit	Available for purchase on www.amazon.com
Blankets		Donated or pet supply retailer
Dog waste disposal station (recommended) 	For designated outside pet urination/defecation and/or exercise area	Search “Dogipot®” or “Dog waste system”

Item	Comments	Sources
Disposable non-latex rubber gloves	Varying sizes	
Leak-proof bags for animal waste 		Pet supply retailer www.earthrated.com
Training Pads ("pee or wee" pads)		Pet supply retailer
Potty Patch® 		www.pottypatch.com
Dog Toys 		Donated or pet supply retailer
Dog shampoo/conditioner		Local groomer, pet store or veterinary clinic
Grooming tools		Donated or pet supply retailer
Enrichment/Chew toys 		Available for purchase and view chewing style resource at www.kongcompany.com

Item	Comments	Sources
<p>Hiding area e.g. Dogloo®</p> 	<p>For dog housing unit in designated animal housing area</p>	<p>Available for purchase at www.petmate.com</p>
<p>Pheromone Diffuser - Adaptil®</p> 		<p>Available for purchase at www.adaptil.com</p>

4. Cats



4.1 IDENTIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- All cats staying in the shelter should have appropriate identification on the room or housing unit/area in which the cat is staying.
- Identification tags with previous address should be removed from cats' collars.
- Collars and harnesses that are not of the “breakaway” type, should be removed to prevent accidental strangulation if the collar gets caught or the cat gets their paw or leg through the collar.
- Breakaway collars need to be of good quality and condition to ensure that they will break away easily if the collar is pulled. They should be tested regularly to ensure that they are safe to use. An alternative is to use paper collars that can easily tear or rip if they get caught. Animal and owner name can be written on the paper collar.
- If not already microchipped, it is recommended that cats be microchipped at the first veterinary appointment and registered with appropriate contact information (e.g. Crisis Line, shelter, veterinary clinic, emergency contact (if available)) (see 3.9).
- Pet supplies and grooming tools should be marked with the name of the owner and pet. Items should not be shared between animals from different households.

IN-ROOM

- “Cat in room” or similar type of identification should be indicated on the outside of the door to rooms housing cats. A note on the cat’s temperament should also be included on the identification, such as in cases where a worker needs to enter the room

ID EXAMPLE: CAT IN ROOM

(placed on outside of door)



ID EXAMPLE: PET ID TEMPLATE

(placed on inside of door of room housing pet or outside of animal housing area and/or unit)

Owner name: _____		Pet Name: _____	
Breed /Species/Description: _____			
Sex/ Spayed or Neutered _____		Age _____	
Date of Admission: _____		Date of Vet Exam: _____	
Health/Behavior Issues: _____			
Medications: _____			
Comments: _____			

- Any medical conditions, restrictions (e.g. food allergies), warnings (e.g. fearful), or special needs should be noted on the Pet ID form.
- If more than one cat is housed in a room or shared housing unit, a separate Pet ID form should be posted for each cat.
- Pet ID template can be amended to include/exclude any information that the shelter deems necessary and to protect confidentiality).

IN-ROOM

- Pet Identification (ID) and information should be posted on the inside of the door of the room housing the cat.

DAH

- Pet Identification (ID) and information should be posted on the outside of the door of both the individual housing unit and the door to the housing area.

4.2 FOOD AND WATER RECOMMENDATIONS

All cats should receive the appropriate diet for life stage and/or medical conditions, with appropriate frequency and amount. Clean fresh water should always be available.

- Ideally, cats should be fed the same diet/food (e.g. brand/type of food that they are used to) that they were fed prior to entering the shelter, unless otherwise recommended by a veterinarian.
- Canned/wet food is important for cats' health and should be provided in addition to dry food.
- Amount of food to be fed should be based on the individual pet's life stage and condition.
- Feeding bowls should be cleaned daily.
- Clean fresh water should always be available, changed daily and replenished as needed. Water bowls should be cleaned regularly.

4.3 LITTER BOX RECOMMENDATIONS

It is important to keep cat litter boxes clean, as a dirty litter box is the main reason why cats urinate and/or defecate outside their litter box.

Pregnant women, young children and immunocompromised individuals should not handle or clean the litter box due to the risk of Toxoplasmosis.

- Cats prefer to use clean litter boxes to urinate/defecate, therefore ideally the number of litter boxes provided is equal to the number of cats plus one (e.g. for 1 cat, there are 2 litter boxes; for 2 cats, there are 3 litter boxes). This may depend on available space.
- Litter boxes should be scooped of feces and urine twice daily. Waste should be disposed of according to the Waste Management protocol.
- The litter box should be thoroughly cleaned at least once a month to prevent odor buildup. To clean, empty the litter box, wash with dish detergent, rinse and dry, and replace with clean litter.
- At least 2 inches (5 cm) of unscented clumping litter should be used to fill the box.
- Most cats prefer large uncovered litterboxes, unless the cat is used to using a covered litter box. Litter boxes should be placed in a safe and quiet area of the room away from doors, where the cat is not disturbed when using the box.
- See 4.5 Room and Space Recommendations for litter box setup.

4.4 EXERCISE AND SOCIALIZATION RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure good health, it is important for cats to have opportunities for exercise (e.g. play) and socialization with their owners.

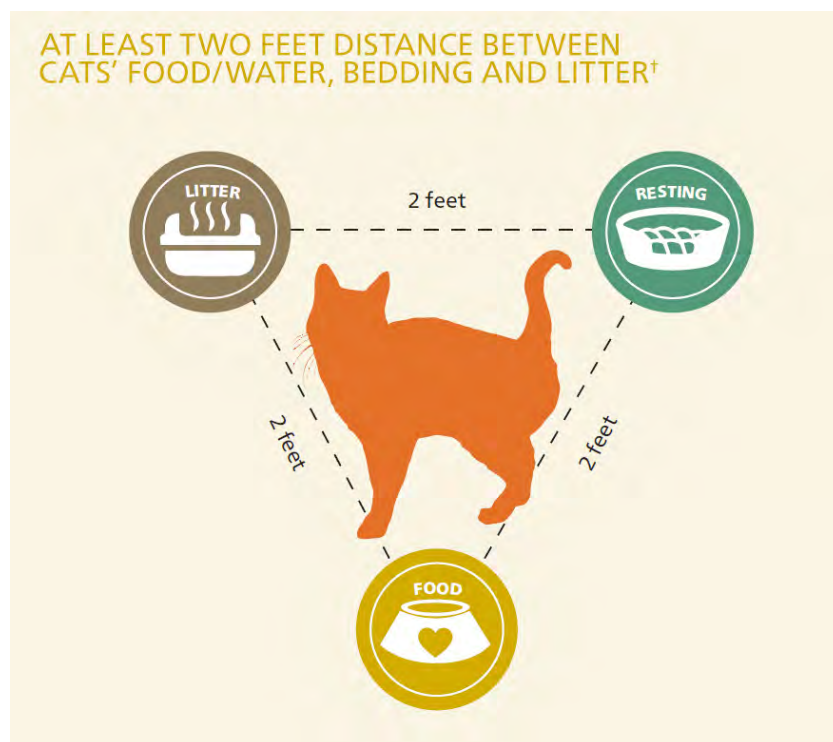
- Confinement to unfamiliar and small spaces can be stressful to cats and a stressed cat is more likely to become ill.
- Spending time every day with their owner/family members helps to reduce stress. Grooming cats by their owners is a good form of socialization for cats; grooming tools should not be used on cats from different households; grooming tools should be thoroughly washed and disinfected before being used on cats from a different household.
- A general recommendation is for cat owners to spend at least 45 minutes twice daily playing and/or socializing with their cat(s).
- If a cat is shy or scared it may prefer to hide for the first few days in a new environment which is normal and in which case, the cat should not be disturbed. The owner's presence and a quiet atmosphere is comforting during this time.
- The environment in the room or housing unit should be as calm as possible. If there is music or television in the room, the volume should be low. The music or television should be turned off when the owner leaves the room.
- Play and exercise should be encouraged by using cat toys. A variety of different toys should be used as cats are easily bored. Avoid sharing of cat toys between cats of different households; toys should be thoroughly washed and disinfected between use for cats of different households.
- Scratching posts and pads, and climbing trees are a good and important form of exercise.
- All cats should be provided with a scratching post or pad. Scratching is an instinctive and important behavior and form of exercise.

DAH

- Cats housed in a Designated Animal Housing area away from their owners will benefit from more exercise/socialization than those staying in rooms with their owners.
 - If cats are allowed loose in the cat housing area, there should only be one cat loose at a time.
 - If the lower cat housing units are occupied, the doors should be covered with a large towel or sheet while a cat is loose. This helps the cat inside the lower housing unit feel safe and lowers stress for all cats.
 - A sign should be placed on the outside of the door to the cat housing area asking others not to enter while a cat is loose.
 - It is recommended that the owner stay in the room with the cat while it is out of its housing unit.
- *NOTE: Unvaccinated cats should not be loose in the cat housing area. Once vaccinated, wait 2 days before letting the cat loose in the cat housing area.

4.5 ROOM AND SPACE RECOMMENDATIONS

- Rooms and housing areas that house cats should ideally be in a quiet area of the shelter and have low foot traffic.
- Cats should be provided with places to hide (e.g. carrier with door removed and bedding inside) and a place to perch (e.g. climbing tree, screened window with a perching area).
- Rooms and housing units should be large enough to allow for a minimum two-foot distance between food/water, litter, and the cat's resting area as shown below.



Reprinted with permission from Rescue Group Best Practices Guide by Abby Volin. Copyright ©2015 The Humane Society of the United States.

Pheromone diffuser - Feliway® Classic

- To reduce stress and help cats get used to their new environment a pheromone diffuser such as Feliway® Classic is recommended. If available, the diffuser should be placed in an open area of the room, and free from barriers that will prevent adequate circulation.
- Diffusers need to be refilled every 30 days and checked daily to ensure they are plugged in all the way, the wick is not broken or damaged, and that there is nothing blocking the diffuser.

Multiple cats sharing a single space

If multiple cats are housed together in the same room or housing unit, the following should be considered

- Cats should only be housed together in the same room or housing unit if they are known to get along (e.g. typically sleep together and/or groom one another) and have no history of aggression. If signs of aggression are observed when cats are housed together, the cats should be separated.
- Note that it can be more difficult to monitor individual cats eating, drinking, and urination/defecation when multiple cats are housed together.
- A larger room/housing unit is needed to accommodate more litterboxes, food/water areas, and resting places. This helps to prevent aggression between cats and competition over resources.
- The number of litter boxes provided should ideally be equal to the number of cats plus one more box. The litter boxes should be visually separated from each other.
- Separate food and water should be provided for each cat. These should be visually separated from each other.
- Intact male and female cats over 4 months of age should not be housed together in order to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Male cats should be neutered as soon as possible.

IN-ROOM

Space recommendations

- There should be enough space for the owner to move freely in the room with a clear path for entry and exit.
- If young children are sharing the room, the cat(s) should have a quiet area where they cannot be reached by children (e.g. a closet with baby gate in doorway).

DAH

Space recommendations

- At minimum the recommended size of each housing unit should allow for the proper placement and set up as described previously (i.e. 2 feet between food/water, litter, and resting area) while also allowing enough space to permit the cat to move freely, stretch (vertically and horizontally), and lay down.
- See Low Stress Cat Housing diagram below
- Cats should be given the maximum amount of space available within the cat housing complex. If the cat housing complex is not

fully occupied, a single cat is given access to double or triple units. Adjustable housing unit complexes are recommended.

- Cats should not be moved from one unit to a different unit unless recommended by a veterinarian as changes are very stressful for cats and a stressed cat is more susceptible to disease.
- Cats housed in a Designated Animal Housing area should have daily access to a larger enclosed, safe, and enriched area to be outside of their unit for exercise, socialization, and play.

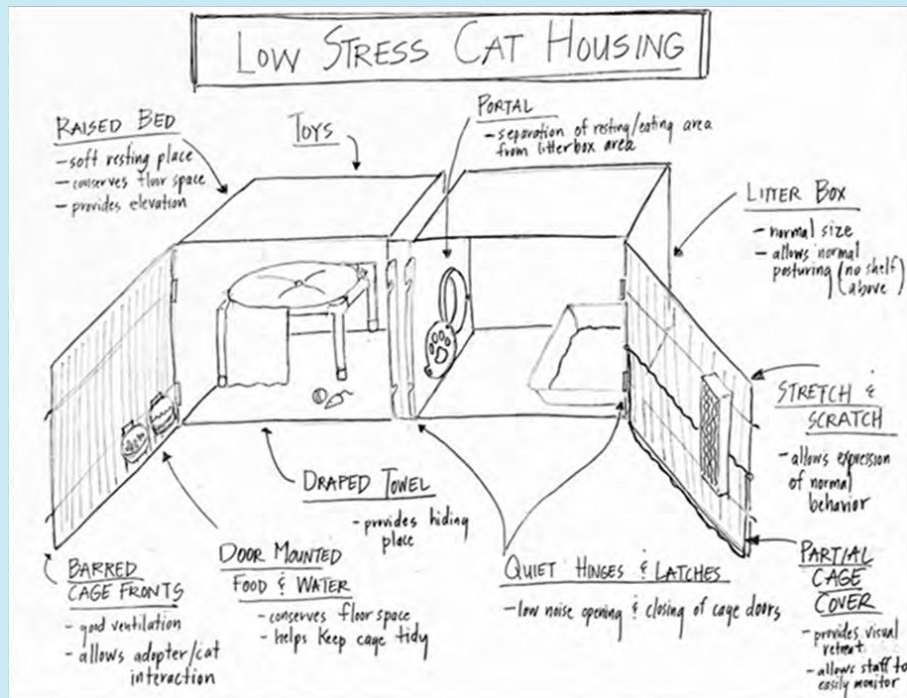
Placement of cats in units

- The middle and upper level units are the “preferred” units as cats like heights.
- If a cat is scared or aggressive it may be difficult to remove it from the upper level units; in this case the middle level may be the best choice.
- The lower level units should be used when the middle and upper level units are already occupied.
- The more space a cat has, the less stressed it will be. If there are free housing units, cats should have access to the other units.

Set up

- The floor of each unit should be lined with several layers of newspaper
- Litter boxes should contain at least 2 inches (5 cm) of unscented clumping cat litter or the type of litter that the cat is used to.
- Hide, Perch and Go® boxes are recommended and should be placed in the back, right corner of the unit with the opening facing sideways to give the cat privacy. A cat bed or bedding material (e.g. synthetic fleece) should be placed inside and on top of the box to provide a comfortable bed.
- Food and water dishes should be lined up along the short side of the housing unit on the right side as close to the wall as possible, or bracket mounted on door (if available). This arrangement helps reduce the chance of spillage.
- Scratch and Stretch® pads are recommended and are ideally attached to the unit door in the middle of the door about halfway up the height of the door. This allows cats to carry out instinctive scratching behavior.
- If the cat has access to more than one housing unit, the litter box should be placed in the lower unit. The higher unit contains the Hide, Perch and Go® box and food and water.
- Multiple cats should have access to multiple adjoining housing units.

Sample Cat Housing Set Up



Reprinted with permission from Dr. Denae Wagner, Koret Shelter Medicine Program, UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

Temperature and humidity

- Temperature and humidity monitors should be present in the housing area and monitored or recorded daily (see Daily Task Checklist for Cats (3.11)).

Light/dark recommendations

Ideally, cats should receive adequate amounts of light and dark that closely mimic day and night.

- At minimum, lighting provided should be 8 hours per day. Natural light is preferred however care should be taken to maintain

stable temperature and prevent overheating of housing area and unit, especially where cats cannot move away from the hot areas.

- At maximum, lighting should be comparable to the length of natural daylight hours.
- At minimum, cat housing areas should have no lighting (a period of dark) for at least 8 consecutive hours at nighttime to ensure good quality rest.¹

¹ Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (2018). A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations 3rd Ed. Available at: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/Code-of-Practice-for-Canadian-Kennel-Operations>



4.6 ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Cats benefit from having a wide variety of appropriate, safe toys and enrichment activities that allow them to exhibit natural behaviors, be active and stimulated.

- Activities and toys that stimulate jumping, chasing, pouncing and running are encouraged. For example:
 - Feather on a stick
 - Paper boxes and bags
 - Tissue paper
 - Climbing trees
 - Playing fetch for food treats

- Enrichment that stimulates natural cat behaviors is recommended. For example:
 - Hide Perch and Go®
 - Toys hung from objects in the room to encourage batting
 - Foraging toys (e.g. treat ball)
 - Ball tracks
 - Bird/Squirrel DVD on TV
 - Perching area near a screened window
- Toys should be interchanged every few days, so that they remain novel and interesting to the cat.
- Toys should be of the appropriate size for the cat and in good condition in order to avoid accidental ingestion of part or whole toy.

4.7 GROOMING AND HYGIENE RECOMMENDATIONS

Regular brushing or grooming of cats is a form of socialization and reduces hair and allergens in the environment.

- Haircoat should be brushed or combed on a regular basis if the cat allows it. This is especially important for long-haired cats.
- Cats that are soiled with feces, urine, or vomit should be spot cleaned using water and a soft face cloth. If this is ineffective, a cat shampoo followed by combing, rinsing, and towel drying is recommended. Some cats may find water bathing very stressful, which may lead to distress of the cat and/or bites/scratches to the handler. Longer haired cats should then be combed to prevent the hair from matting.
- Grooming tools should not be shared with animals who are from other households.
- If small matts are present along the back, they may be carefully clipped using pet clippers (see 4.13 Resource List). Scissors are not recommended as it is easy to accidentally cut the skin.
- If the matts are extensive, tight against the skin, or on parts of the body that are difficult to reach (e.g. behind ears, in the groin or under forearm area) then clipping should be carried out by a veterinarian/ veterinary technician or an experienced groomer.

4.8 HEALTH CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that all cats receive a veterinary health examination and preventive care within 24 hours of entering the shelter.

Cat owners should note any physical and/or behavioral health issues of their cat(s) and notify staff so that veterinary care can be arranged.

- All cats over 3-months of age should be up to date on rabies vaccinations.
- All cats should be up to date on Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus and Panleukopenia vaccinations.
- Preventive veterinary care includes an examination, vaccinations (FVRCP, rabies), deworming, treatment for external parasites (e.g. fleas, ticks, etc.) and scanning for a microchip.
- Depending on vaccine history and length of stay at the shelter, booster vaccinations may be required, based on veterinary advice.
- If the cat has a microchip, contact the microchip registry (<http://www.petmicrochiplookup.org/>) to change the contact phone number to the Crisis Line or shelter phone number, emergency contact, and/or veterinary clinic while the cat is at the shelter. The microchip number should also be noted on the medical record.
- If no microchip is present, it is recommended that a microchip be inserted and registered with the appropriate contact information such as crisis line, shelter, emergency contact, and/or veterinary clinic. This information will need to be updated when the owner leaves the shelter.
- Medical records should be maintained by the shelter in electronic or paper format (i.e. in binder), including any past records or information (e.g. vaccine records)
- A white board placed in an area available to pet owners and staff is recommended in order to track animals that require medication, veterinary care, extra monitoring, or other concerns that require monitoring by staff.
- Male and female cats who are not neutered/spayed and over 4 months-old should not be housed in the same room/housing unit in order to prevent unwanted pregnancy. Intact male cats should be neutered as soon as possible.

A veterinarian should be consulted if a cat shows any of the following signs, or if there are any other concerns of the owner:

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weight loss • Lethargy (quiet, not him/herself, doesn't want to do the things he/she normally does (e.g. groom, play) • Fever or cat feels warm • Persistent hiding (after being given time to settle into new environment) • Pain or discomfort (e.g. vocalizing when moving or picked up) • Difficulty getting up or walking, unsteady gait, falling over
Gastrointestinal (Stomach, intestine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not eating for more than 24 hours • Diarrhea or vomiting or attempting to vomit • Difficulty or straining to defecate • Black or tarry-looking stool • Swollen or distended abdomen • No defecation for more than 24 hours • Excessive vocalization
Eyes, ears, skin, muscle, bone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury or lameness • Open wounds or bleeding • Crying or unusual vocalizations • Scratching more than usual; shaking head more than usual • Bad odor from ears or skin • Overgrooming • Hair loss/redness of skin • Redness or swelling of eyes or ears • Discharge from eyes or ears • Skin debris, dandruff, or parasites (e.g. fleas)

Cardio/Respiratory (Heart, lungs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noisy or difficulty breathing, panting or open mouth breathing • Coughing, sneezing or wheezing • Discharge from nose
Urogenital (Kidney, bladder, genitals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking more than usual • Not drinking for more than 24 hours • Urinating more than usual • Blood in urine or difficulty or straining to urinate • Vocalizing when using the litter box • No urination for more than 12 hours • Urinating or defecating outside of the litter box • White or bloody discharge from genitals
Neurological (Nervous system)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakness, paralysis, tremors, seizures • Uncoordinated, falling over, difficulty walking in a straight line • Droopy face • Difficulty swallowing

4.9 ILLNESS AND HOUSING RECOMMENDATIONS

Stress reduction is the primary focus in preventing and addressing illness in cats.

- To reduce stress for cats, cats should be housed in rooms/housing units with low foot traffic that are quiet. It's important for pet owners to spend time socializing and playing with their cat(s) as it reduces a cat's stress significantly.
- Cats from different households should not be permitted to visit other cats.
- Using the stress-reducing pheromone diffuser (Feliway® Classic) is helpful to reduce stress. It is important that it is operating effectively (i.e. there is liquid still in the bottle, the wick is intact, the unit is properly inserted into the outlet, and there is nothing blocking the unit) and replaced every 30 days.
- Maintaining a regular routine of cat care, feeding, exercise, and socialization also helps to reduce stress.

Isolation of ill cats is not routinely recommended as this will increase stress and worsen illness.

- Cats that show signs of illness (e.g. nose/eye discharge, sneezing, frequent diarrhea/vomiting) should be restricted to the pet owner's room or housing unit. Veterinary care should be sought immediately.
- Unvaccinated young cats (under 1 year of age) are at greatest risk for feline panleukopenia and therefore should be vaccinated (FVRCP +/- rabies) as soon as possible after entering the shelter.
- Signs of panleukopenia include fever, loss of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea and lethargy. Cats with these signs require veterinary care as soon as possible.
- Cats should only be handled by their owners. Pet supplies should not be shared with other cats.
- Proper handwashing and hygiene practices are recommended to prevent disease transmission to other animals.

DAH

- Cat housing units should be set up in a manner that minimizes stress (see Low Stress Cat Housing).
- Ill cats should not be allowed to roam free in the cat housing area.
- Cats should not be moved from their housing unit if they are ill. Rather, spot clean as described at the end of this section.
- Moving cats into a different housing unit increases stress and can worsen illness.
- Cats should remain in their housing unit and monitored carefully while veterinary care is arranged.
- Any new cat entering the cat housing area should be placed at least one housing unit away from the cat that is ill.

4.10 PET OWNER RESOURCE - DAILY TASK CHECKLIST FOR CATS

The Daily Task Checklist for Cats provided may be helpful for families to divide and share pet caretaking activities, as a general guide for pet owners or for pet-sitters or pet caretaking by someone other than the owner. This checklist is intended to be an optional resource for pet owners and pet-owning families.

Note: The use of checklists is recommended for cats that are kept in a designated animal housing area.

- The Daily Task Checklist for Cats may be completed throughout the day by the pet owner/caregiver as tasks are completed or may be used as a general guide.
- Completed Checklists may be kept with the other pet-related documents.
- This checklist can be amended to be specific for an individual pet and/or client.



DAILY TASK CHECKLIST FOR CATS

Date: _____

Name: _____

Task	Check when done ✓				Recommendations
	Morning	Afternoon	Evening	Bedtime	
Spot Clean/Tidy room/unit					Once daily/as needed
Scoop litter, replace litter as needed					2 times daily min./as needed
Wash bowls					Daily/as needed
Refill food/water					Twice daily
Spend time/play with cat (45 min. each)					Twice daily
If cat is in a housing unit, allow to be free in housing area or other safe space.					Twice daily/as available
Grooming					Daily/as needed
Wash bedding					As needed
Check Room Temperature		°C			Once daily (if applicable)
Check Pheromone Diffuser					Once daily - Replace when empty (every 30 days)
Notes:					

4.11 PET OWNER RESOURCE - DAILY OBSERVATION CHECKLIST

The Daily Observation Checklist provided may be a helpful resource to assess the health of a pet, monitor the health of a pet over time, monitor illness and/or unwell pets and their recovery, and record any abnormalities which will be useful to share with the veterinarian. This checklist is intended to be an optional resource for pet owners and pet-owning families.

Note: The use of checklists is recommended for pets that are kept in a designated animal housing area.

- The Daily Observation Checklist may be completed twice daily (AM and PM) by the pet owner/caregiver to assess health, and monitor health, illness, and/or recovery from illness.
- Completed Checklists may be kept with the other pet-related documents. Pet owners should notify staff if there are abnormal observations and/or other signs that their pet requires veterinary care.
- This checklist can be amended to be specific for an individual pet.
- The following infographics will assist pet owners in completing the Daily Observation Checklist
 - Fecal scoring chart¹ (Cats with feces scores of 1, 6, or 7 should have veterinary care arranged)
 - Cat Language²
 - Understanding Cat Behaviour³
 - Feline Grimace Scale⁴

¹ Reprinted with permission from Purina

² Reprinted with permission from Lili Chin and available at <http://www.doggiedrawings.net/freeposters>

³ Reprinted with permission from the RSPCA © RSPCA. Illustrations © Lili Chin.

⁴ Reprinted with permission from Université de Montréal - <https://www.felinegrimacescale.com/>

DAILY OBSERVATION CHECKLIST (2 DAYS)

Pet Name:		DAY 1		DAY 2	
		Time:		Time:	
		AM	PM	AM	PM
Appetite: dry food	Normal				
	Nibbling				
	Not eating				
Appetite: wet food	Normal				
	Nibbling				
	Not eating				
Stools	Formed				
	Diarrhea				
	Bloody				
	None				
Urine	Normal				
	Excessive				
	Bloody				
	Straining				
	None				
Vomiting	None				
	Food				
	Bile				
	Hairball				
	Other:				
Coughing	No				
	Yes				
Sneezing	No				
	Yes				
Nasal discharge	None				
	Clear				
	Cloudy/Green/Yellow				
	Blood				
Eyes	Clear				
	Pus/mucus				
	Red/irritated				
	Swollen				
Behavior	Friendly				
	Scared/shy				
	Listless/depressed				
	Fearful/Feral				
	Painful				
	Urine outside litterbox				
	Stool outside litterbox				
Notes:					

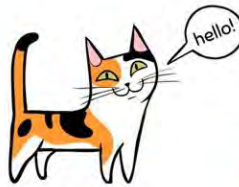
Fecal Scoring Chart

SCORE	SPECIMEN EXAMPLE	CHARACTERISTICS
1		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Very hard and dry · Often expelled as individual pellets · Requires much effort to expel from body · Leaves no residue on ground when picked up
2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Firm, but not hard, pliable · Segmented in appearance · Little or no residue on ground when picked up
3		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Log shaped, moist surface · Little or no visible segmentation · Leaves residue on ground, but holds form when picked up
4		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Very moist and soggy · Log shaped · Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up
5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Very moist but has a distinct shape · Present in piles rather than logs · Leaves residue on ground and loses form when picked up
6		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Has texture, but no defined shape · Present as piles or spots · Leaves residue on ground when picked up
7		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Watery · No texture · Present in flat puddles

CAT LANGUAGE



INTERESTED



FRIENDLY



ATTENTIVE



RELAXED



TRUSTING



FRIENDLY, RELAXED



CONTENT



CONFLICTED, CAUTIOUS



PLAYFUL



EXCITED



"THIS IS MINE"



ANXIOUS



PREDATORY



WORRIED



FRIGHTENED



THREATENED



TERRIFIED



SUPER TERRIFIED



IRRITATED



DISGUSTED

©2015 Lili Chin - doggiedrawings.net - Creative Commons Licence BY-NC-ND



Understanding cat behaviour

YOUR CAT'S BODY LANGUAGE CAN HELP YOU TO UNDERSTAND HOW THEY ARE FEELING

A happy cat

These cats are relaxed and happy.

1

Cat is standing, has a relaxed body posture, ears are in a natural position, tail is held upright with the tip of the tail curved, eyes are a normal shape, mouth is closed.



2

Cat is lying down, belly is exposed, body posture is relaxed, body is stretched out, ears are in natural position, eyes may be partly closed, mouth is closed.



3

Cat is sitting, body posture is relaxed, tail is held out loosely from body, ears are in natural position, eyes are a normal shape, mouth is closed.

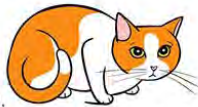


A worried cat

These cats are telling you that they are uncomfortable and don't want you near them.

1

Cat is in a crouched position, muscles are tense, body is held tightly, tail is tucked tightly into body, ears are slightly swivelled sideways, head is slightly lowered and tucked into body, pupils are dilated, mild tension shows in face.



2

Cats who are worried or anxious may hide.



An angry or very unhappy cat

These cats are not happy and want you to stay away or go away.

1

Cat is lying down, body is flattened, ears are flattened to the head, pupils are dilated, tail is held tightly into body, body is tense, limbs are held tight and close to body.



2

Cat is lying down, body is flattened, ears are flattened to the head and drawn back, body is slightly rolled over to one side, pupils are dilated, mouth is open and tense, teeth are showing.



3

Cat is standing, back is arched, body is held sideways, hair is raised, posture is tense, front paw is slightly lifted off the ground (ready to swipe if needed), ears are lowered and pointing out to the side, mouth is open and tense, teeth are showing, tail is tense.



Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

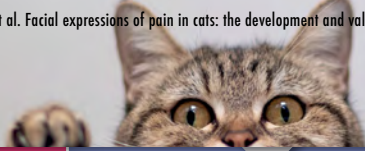
Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RS

www.rspca.org.uk [facebook.com/RSPCA](https://www.facebook.com/RSPCA) twitter.com/RSPCA_official

The RSPCA helps animals in England and Wales. Registered charity no: 219099. The RSPCA only exists with the support of public donations.
Illustrations: Lili Chin, © 2011. All rights reserved. With thanks to Julie Bedford, certified clinical animal behaviourist.

FELINE GRIMACE SCALE® FACT SHEET

Evangelista et al. Facial expressions of pain in cats: the development and validation of a Feline Grimace Scale. Sci Rep 9, 19128 (2019)



WHY?

- Pain-induced behavioral changes are unique in cats and can be subtle

WHO?

- The FGS can be used by:
 - Veterinarians
 - Veterinary nurses
 - Veterinary students
 - Cat owners

WHAT?

- The Feline Grimace Scale (FGS) is a valid and reliable tool used for acute pain assessment based on changes in facial expressions
- Quick and easy-to-use
- Differentiates painful and non-painful cats and response to analgesics

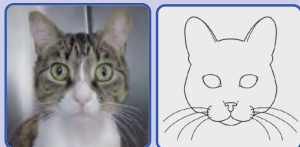
WHEN?

- The FGS is used for acute pain assessment in cats with medical, surgical or oral pain, etc.
- Pain assessment should be performed in all cats as often as needed on a case-by-case basis

HOW?

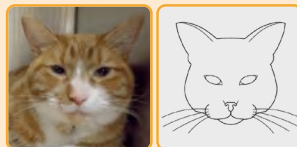
- There are 5 action units (AU):
 - Ear position
 - Orbital tightening
 - Muzzle tension
 - Whiskers position
 - Head position
- Each AU is scored:
 - 0 (absent)
 - 1 (moderately present)
 - 2 (present)
- The final score is the sum of all scores (maximum of 10)
- Analgesic treatment is suggested when the final score is $\geq 4/10$ or $0.4/1.0$

0 = AU is absent



- Ears facing forward
- Eyes opened
- Muzzle relaxed (round shape)
- Whiskers loose and curved
- Head above the shoulder line

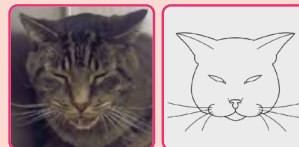
1 = AU is moderately present*



- Ears slightly pulled apart
- Eyes partially opened
- Muzzle mildly tense
- Whiskers slightly curved or straight
- Head aligned with the shoulder line

*The score of 1 can be also given when there is uncertainty over the presence or absence of the AU

2 = AU is markedly present



- Ears flattened and rotated outwards
- Squinted eyes
- Muzzle tense (elliptical shape)
- Whiskers straight and moving forward
- Head below the shoulder line or tilted down (chin towards the chest)

Steagall laboratory
felinegrimacescale@umontreal.ca

Feline Grimace Scale®
Université de Montréal 2019
Faculté de médecine vétérinaire



Access the training manual
bit.ly/FGSmanual



Access the video
bit.ly/FGSvideo



Acknowledgement

zoetis

4.12 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION - DAILY SPOT CLEANING CHECKLIST

Note: Pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals should not handle dirty litter boxes due to risk of Toxoplasmosis.

Name: _____

Action	✓
Put on gloves.	
Remove food and water bowls and let soak in a sink of warm soapy water for 5 minutes. Wash and rinse dishes thoroughly.	
Clean litter box: Scoop clumped urine and feces into leak-proof bag and dispose of in designated waste bin outside. Add litter to depth of 2 inches (5cm) as needed.	
Remove dirty blankets/towels/beds (e.g. soiled with urine, feces or vomit) and wash in the washing machine using hot water and detergent with bleach. Place in dryer on hot setting until completely dry. Do not overload the washing machine or dryer.	
Use a broom/dustpan or Swiffer® to remove any fur or spilled cat litter on the floor and place into the garbage bin.	
Throw used gloves in garbage and wash hands thoroughly.	
Replace clean blankets/towels/beds if needed.	




4.12 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION - FULL CLEANING CHECKLIST




Note: Pregnant women and immunocompromised individuals should not handle dirty litter boxes due to risk of Toxoplasmosis.

Name: _____

Action	✓
If heavily soiled, remove cat from the room or unit and place in portable carrier before starting to clean.	
Put on gloves.	
Remove food, water bowls, washable toys, and grooming tools, and let soak in a sink of warm soapy water for 5 minutes. Wash and rinse items thoroughly.	
Remove all blankets/towels and wash in the washing machine using hot water and detergent with bleach. Place in dryer on hot setting until completely dry. Do not overload the washing machine or dryer.	
Remove litter box and empty into the designated garbage bin. Once emptied, place in tub and let soak with warm soapy water. Wash and rinse litter box thoroughly.	
Sweep/vacuum floor of any fur, dirt or debris.	
Clean floors, walls, shelves/perches and door with warm soapy water and scrub brush. Rinse soap off and let dry.	
Spray or wipe floor, walls, windows, shelves/perches, door/handle with accelerated hydrogen peroxide. Let sit for 5 minutes before wiping dry with paper towel or let air dry.	
Throw used gloves in garbage and wash hands thoroughly.	

4.13 RESOURCE LIST

Item	Comments	Sources
Hide, Perch and Go Boxes™ 	For hiding and perching	Available for purchase at www.sPCA.bc.ca
Stretch and Scratch® Pads 	Scratching pads that can be mounted on door of unit.	Available for purchase at www.stretchandscratch.com
Bedding/blankets/fleece material 	Bedding for inside and on top of the Hide, Perch and Go™ boxes	Fabric store Search “synthetic Sherpa fleece fabric” (cut into appropriate-size pieces)
Several popular brands of cat food, canned and dry in a variety of flavors	If owner does not bring cat’s own food.	Donated (unopened, well-dated) Grocery store Pet supply store
Litter boxes	Litter boxes are as large as possible.	Pet supply
Scoops for litter box	1 per cat/household	Pet supply

Item	Comments	Sources
Cat Litter (clumping, non-scented)		Donated Pet supply
Food and Water Dishes	Stainless steel recommended	Donated (clean, sterilized) Pet supply
Large towels or sheets	To cover the lower cages when another cat is roaming free in the housing area	Donated
Newspaper	For lining housing unit floor	Donated
Enrichment items	e.g. cardboard boxes, large paper bags, tissue paper	
Pet clippers 	To remove matts from haircoat. Clean and oil after each use. Corded clippers are more durable.	Donated Pet supply
Feliway® Diffuser and Refills  	Supplies synthetic feline pheromones that help relieve stress. Refills are changed every 30 days.	Available for purchase at www.feliway.com
Variety of scratching posts and pads, Climbing trees for cat housing area	Choose sturdy scratching posts and scratching pads made from corrugated cardboard	Donated (gently used) Pet supply

Item	Comments	Sources
Lint Rollers	For room furniture and clothing	Local hardware or department store
Cat toys	e.g. ball track, balls, food balls	Donated Pet supply Home-made
Adjustable cat housing complexes	Can be custom designed to fit the space	Available for purchase at www.cdecages.com

5. Small mammals



5.1 IDENTIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS

- All small mammals staying in the shelter should have appropriate identification on the room or cage/habitat/housing area in which the small mammal is staying.
- Pet supplies and food brought with the pet should be marked with the name of the owner and pet. Items should not be shared between animals from different households.

IN-ROOM

- “Small Mammal in room” or similar type of identification should be indicated on the outside of the door to rooms housing small mammals

ID EXAMPLE: SMALL MAMMAL IN ROOM
(placed on outside of door)



ID EXAMPLE: PET ID TEMPLATE

(placed on inside of door of room housing pet or outside of animal housing area and/or unit)

Owner name: _____	Pet Name: _____
Breed /Species/Description: _____	
Sex/ Spayed or Neutered _____	Age _____
Date of Admission: _____	Date of Vet Exam: _____
Health/Behavior Issues: _____	
Medications: _____	
Comments: _____	

- Any restrictions (e.g. diet, food preferences) or warnings (e.g. may bite when handled) or special needs should be noted on the Pet ID form.
- If more than one small mammal is housed in the room or shared cage/habitat, a separate Pet ID form should be posted for each pet.
- Pet ID template can be amended to include/exclude any information that the shelter deems necessary and to protect confidentiality.

IN-ROOM

- Pet Identification (ID) and information should be posted on the inside of the door of the room housing the small mammal(s).

DAH

- Pet Identification (ID) and information should be posted on the outside of the door of both the cage/habitat and the door to the housing area.



5.2 FOOD AND WATER RECOMMENDATIONS

All small mammals should receive the appropriate diet for their species. Clean fresh water should always be available.

Food

- Food should be checked daily to ensure there is enough available and that the pets can easily get to it.
- Food should be checked daily for spoilage, wetness, urine or feces soiling of food, and soiled food removed and replaced with fresh food. Food bowls should be checked to make sure that they are not being used as a bathroom and the food contaminated with feces or urine.
- If fresh vegetables are given, any uneaten vegetables should be removed the following day.
- Some small mammals require hay or equivalent as a source of additional fiber in the diet. Hay should be of a type labelled for use with small mammals.
- Vitamin C chews or supplementation is required for Guinea pigs as they can't make enough of it themselves. Expiry dates should be strictly followed for Vitamin C supplements or feed supplemented with Vitamin C.

- It is important that all small mammals have material to chew on (e.g. nylon bones for rodents; hardwood blocks; see 5.9 Resource list) in order to keep their teeth worn down.
- If more than one animal is housed in a cage or habitat, multiple food locations should be provided to prevent aggression from resource competition.

Water

- Water bottles with sipper tubes are preferred for providing fresh, clean water to small mammals. More than one bottle per cage/habitat is recommended in case one bottle isn't working properly. Using multiple water bottles should also be considered if there are more than one small mammal in the same cage/habitat.
- When using water bottles, it should be ensured that the pet can drink, knows how to drink from a water bottle and can easily reach the sipper tube.
- The water in water bottles should be changed daily. Leave air in the bottle so that it can empty when the pet drinks (there is often a fill line on the bottle).
- After filling the water bottle, check for leaks and make sure that the water level is going down during the day to ensure it is working properly.
- Guinea pigs like to play with their water, so check to see that the decrease in water in the bottle is not because of water spillage. Water spillage will show as wet bedding below the water bottle.
- The drinking tube should be checked daily to make certain it is not plugged. Do this by tapping the ball in the opening of the drinking tube. It should move easily and water should be released.

5.3 MONITORING HEALTH

Health of small mammals is monitored through daily checks of urine and feces production. Health can also be monitored through regular weighing of small mammals.

- The cage/habitat should be inspected daily to make sure there is evidence of bedding wetness (urine) and fecal material (feces or poop) in the bedding, and that the wetness is not from a leaking water bottle.
- If the small mammal is not producing urine or feces, or less than normal, the animal should be examined by a veterinarian.
- Fecal pellets (for animals that produce these) are dry and usually distributed throughout the bedding. If the pet has diarrhea the fecal pellets are sticky.
- In rabbits, sticky clumped fecal pellets are called “cecotropes” (not diarrhea) and are important to a rabbit's nutrition and digestion. Rabbits need to eat the cecotropes to get nutrients important to digestion.

- Diarrhea in rabbits looks like watery feces.
- Small mammals that have diarrhea should be examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible.
- Teeth should be checked regularly to ensure that they are not overgrown, and that the small mammal is able to eat normally.
- Small mammals can be weighed on a kitchen scale to monitor health. Changes in weight can be an indicator of illness, and veterinary care should be sought.



5.4 EXERCISE RECOMMENDATIONS

Small mammal pets should be provided with opportunity for exercise that is suitable for the species to ensure their health and well-being.

Exercise equipment should be tailored to specific species to avoid injury.

- Small mammals would normally spend much of their day looking for food. Animals living in cages/habitats do not have to work very hard to access their food, and they can easily become bored and overweight which is not good for their health or welfare.

- In order to ensure the health of small mammals, every cage/habitat should contain something that encourages activity (e.g. running wheels, trapezes, ladders, platforms, exercise balls, etc.). There are many cage toys available to help animals to exercise.
- Running wheels that are suitable for the species should be constructed so feet, nails and tails cannot get caught in the wheels.
- Some small mammal species sleep in the daytime and are active (eat, drink, exercise) at nighttime.

5.5 SOCIALIZATION AND ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The regular and gentle handling of pets is important to help them be calm and happy and to reinforce their socialization and relationship with their owner. Handling is also a form of enrichment for the pet.

- Cages/habitats should be designed for small mammals and contain materials that allow pets to perform natural behaviors such as running (e.g. wheel), foraging, burrowing, hiding food, chewing, climbing, resting and nesting.
- Small mammal playpens enhanced by toys (which are regularly rotated) can provide a secure and larger enclosed area for exploration and physical exercise. This is especially important for larger small mammals such as rabbits. Small mammals should be supervised when in a playpen.
- Small mammals like to explore and handle things, so including toys that encourage this normal behavior makes life more interesting for them. When small mammals are bored, they can show unhealthy behaviors such as overcleaning their fur which leads to bald patches.
- If using toys with food treat rewards, treat intake should be monitored to ensure small mammals don't become overweight.



5.6 HOUSING AND PLACEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

All small mammals should be housed in fully contained, appropriately sized and secure cages/habitats.

Small mammals who are “prey” species should be kept separate from “predator” species as this will cause stress and ill health for both species.

Cage/habitat set up

- There should be enough bedding for insulation, burrowing, nesting and urine absorption. Hardwood chips (e.g. aspen) are suitable as a base to absorb water/urine (not more than one inch, or 2.5 centimeters). Soft paper-based small animal bedding may be added to encourage nesting and burrowing. Species-specific commercial beddings should be used to avoid health problems. Too much bedding should be avoided as it makes it difficult for animals to move about the cage/habitat.
- Generally, species specific commercial rodent cages have designated placements for food and water. If not, food should be placed away from water bottles to avoid wetting of food from leaky water bottles or when animals play with their water bottle sipper tubes.
- Huts and running wheels should be placed in the center of the cage/habitat. Importantly, they should not interfere with access to food or water and wheels should be able to spin freely.
- Vertical space for climbing, ladders and/or hammocks in the habitat should be used whenever possible for enrichment and as species appropriate. For example, rats are excellent climbers and benefit from vertical space to climb for enrichment and exercise.
- For mice, a small amount of original bedding should be kept in the cage/habitat to maintain scent when doing a full clean of cage/habitat.

Temperature and humidity

- For most small mammals, the animal housing area temperature should be maintained at 20°C or 68°F with 50% humidity.

Light/dark recommendations

- Most small mammals require at least 10 hours of darkness to reduce stress and ensure good health and welfare¹. When this is not possible (e.g. 24-hour emergency lighting), a light cloth can be placed loosely over the cage/habitat to block light and provide the required darkness. It should not restrict air flow. Any coverings on the cage/habitat should be removed in the daytime.
- If light-filtering red huts or tubes are available (see 5.10 Resource list), these should be used instead of covering the cage.
- If there is natural light, care should be taken to maintain stable temperature and prevent overheating of the room or housing area, especially where small mammals cannot move away from the hot areas.

Multiple small mammals sharing a cage/habitat

- Only certain small mammal species can live together in the same cage/habitat and only if they are:
 - the same species,
 - same sex (to prevent unwanted pregnancies and litters),
 - have been raised together (i.e. littermates) AND
 - are known to get along with no fighting
- Guinea pigs, gerbils, mice and rats are species that can be housed with the same of its kind (e.g. rats with rats) in a cage/habitat if all the above criteria are met and the cage/habitat is large enough to house multiple animals with no competition over resources.
- Hamsters are a solitary species and should always be housed individually.
- New small mammals should not be introduced into an existing cage/habitat of another small mammal. This will likely to lead to fighting, injury or death of one or both animals.

¹ Canadian Council on Animal Care. Available at <https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Facilities.pdf>

Placement of cages/habitats

- The small mammal's secure (i.e. escape-proof) cage/habitat should be placed off the floor (e.g. on a table), in a draft-free zone, and away from direct window light in order to control light and temperature levels.
- If a pet owner has more than one species of small mammal, care should be taken to determine proper placement of each small mammal in the room.
- Predator (e.g. rat) and prey pet species (e.g. mouse, hamster, gerbil) should be separated so there is no physical, visual, smell or sound contact between them (i.e. opposite corners of a room).

Placement of cages/habitats

- Predator (e.g. rat) and prey pet species (e.g. mouse, hamster, gerbil) should be separated so there is no physical, visual, smell or sound contact between them.
- When predator and prey small mammal species are housed in the same animal housing area, prey species (e.g. mice, hamsters, gerbils) should be placed on a higher shelf, with the predator (e.g. rats) on a lower shelf. Ideally, there should be at least one shelf space between prey and predator species.
- Larger species such as rabbits and guinea pigs may be placed on lower shelving units.
- Rabbits should be provided with the opportunity to move freely around the animal housing area when supervised to get exercise
- The small mammal animal housing area should be well-ventilated with adequate air flow, while also ensuring the animals are not exposed to drafts.

5.7 HEALTH CARE RECOMMENDATIONS

Small mammal owners should note any physical and/or behavioral health issues of their pets and notify staff so that veterinary care can be arranged.

- The small mammal owner is in the best position to know whether their pet is feeling well or not and should notify staff so that veterinary care can be arranged.
- A white board placed in an area available to pet owners and staff is recommended to track animals that require medication, veterinary care, extra monitoring, or other concerns that require monitoring by staff.
- As previously mentioned, it is recommended that small mammals be weighed regularly (see 5.10 Resource list) as weight loss is often the first indicator that a small mammal is unwell.



A veterinarian should be consulted if a small mammal shows any of the following signs, or if there are any other concerns of the owner:

General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lethargy (quiet, not him/herself, doesn't want to do the things he/she normally does (e.g. use wheel, be handled, eat fresh vegetables) • Pain or discomfort (See Facial Grimace posters), hunched back, hair standing up (piloerection) • Not grooming (i.e. looks scruffy) • Weight loss • Difficulty moving around, altered gait, falling over, decreased activity • Vocalization • Increased aggression • Dark or red staining around eyes or nose
Gastrointestinal (Mouth, teeth stomach, intestine)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced or difficulty eating or not eating for more than 24 hours • Diarrhea or black or sticky-looking stool • Swollen or distended abdomen • No defecation for more than 24 hours
Eyes, skin, muscle, bone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury or lameness • Open wounds or lumps • Scratching more than usual • Bad odor from ears or skin • Overgrooming • Hair loss/Short whiskers/Redness of skin • Redness or discharge from eyes or ears
Cardio/Respiratory (Heart, lungs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noisy or difficulty breathing • Coughing or sneezing • Discharge from nose

Urogenital (kidney, bladder, genitals)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking more than usual • Not drinking for more than 24 hours • Urinating more than usual • Blood in urine or difficulty or straining to urinate • No urination for more than 12 hours • White or bloody discharge from genitals
Neurological (Nervous system)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakness, paralysis, tremors, seizures • Uncoordinated, falling over, difficulty walking in a straight line

5.8 PET OWNER RESOURCE - DAILY TASK AND OBSERVATION CHECKLIST FOR SMALL MAMMALS

The Daily Task and Observation Checklist for Small Mammals provided may be helpful for families to divide and share pet caretaking activities, as a general guide for pet owners or for pet-sitters or pet caretaking by someone other than the owner. This checklist is intended to be an optional resource for pet owners and pet-owning families.

Note: The use of checklists is recommended for small mammals that are kept in a designated animal housing area.

- The Daily Task and Observation Checklist for Small Mammals may be completed throughout the day by the pet owner/caregiver as tasks are completed or may be used as a general guide.
- Completed checklists may be kept with the other pet-related documents.
- This checklist can be amended to be specific for an individual pet and/or client.
- The following infographics will assist pet owners with the completion of the Daily Task and Observation Checklist:
- Facial grimace scale posters¹ are used to detect pain in small mammals:
 - Rat
 - Mouse
 - Rabbit

¹ Reprinted with permission from the National Centre for Replacement, Refinement & Reduction of Animals in Research and available at <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/grimacescales>

DAILY TASK AND OBSERVATION CHECKLIST FOR SMALL MAMMALS

Date: _____

Intake weight: _____

Tasks		Check when done ✓	Recommendations
1. Food	Remove spoiled food		Daily
	Replace food		Daily
2. Water	Replace water		Daily
	Check sipper		Daily
3. Hygiene	Spot clean cage		Weekly or as needed
	Replace wet/soiled bedding		Daily or as needed
	Temperature & Humidity	°C/F %	Daily

DAILY OBSERVATION

← = Normal, ↑ = Increased, ↓ = Decreased, ? = Uncertain

Tasks		←	↑	↓	?	Comments
1. Eating	Food / Pouches / Teeth					
	Treats / Vegetables					
2. Drinking	Weight					
	Water intake					
3. Urine/Feces	Urine					
	Feces					
4. Grooming	Fur: clean or scruffy					
	Bald patches / whiskers					
	Bright eyes					
	Paws / Nails / Tail					
5. Activity	Exploring					
	Interactive					
	Walking / Gait					
	Running / Gait					
	Climbing / Exercising					
	Manipulating toys					
	Chewing					
	Breathing					
	Body posture					
6. Facial Grimace	See posters					





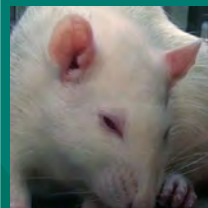



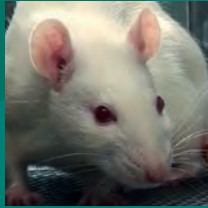

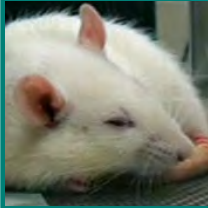
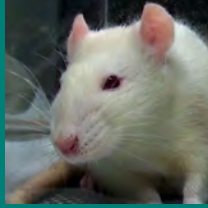
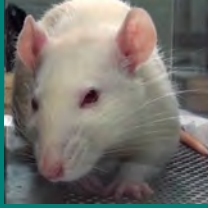

National Centre
for the Replacement
Refinement & Reduction
of Animals in Research

The Rat Grimace Scale

Research has demonstrated that changes in facial expression provide a means of assessing pain in rats.

The specific facial action units shown below have been used to generate the Rat Grimace Scale. These action units increase in intensity in response to post-procedural pain and can be used as part of a clinical assessment.

The action units should only be used in awake animals. Each animal should be observed for a short period of time to avoid scoring brief changes in facial expression that are unrelated to the animal's welfare.

	Not present "0"	Moderately present "1"	Obviously present "2"
Orbital tightening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing of the eyelid (narrowing of orbital area) A wrinkle may be visible around the eye 			
Nose/cheek flattening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flattening and elongation of the bridge of the nose Flattening of the cheeks (potentially sunken look) 			
Ear changes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ears curl inwards and are angled forward to form a 'pointed' shape Space between the ears increases 			
Whisker change <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whiskers stiffen and angle along the face Whiskers may 'clump' together Whiskers lose their natural 'downward' curve 			

Read the original paper:
Sotocinal SG, Sorge RE, Zaloum A, Tuttle AH, Martin LJ, Wieskopf JS, Mapplebeck JCS, Wei P, Zhan S, Zhang S, McDougall JJ, King OD, Mogil JS. 2011. The Rat Grimace Scale: a partially automated method for quantifying pain in the laboratory rat via facial expressions. *Molecular Pain* 7:55. doi:10.1186/1744-8069-7-55

For guidance on using the Rat Grimace Scale, research papers that underpin this technique, and for grimace scales in other species, visit: www.nc3rs.org.uk/grimacescales.
To request copies of this poster, please email: enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk
The NC3Rs provides a range of 3Rs resources at: www.nc3rs.org.uk/resources
Images kindly provided by Dr Jeffrey Mogil, McGill University



National Centre
for the Replacement
Refinement & Reduction
of Animals in Research

The Mouse Grimace Scale

Research has demonstrated that changes in facial expression provide a means of assessing pain in mice.

The specific facial action units shown below have been used to generate the Mouse Grimace Scale. These action units increase in intensity in response to post-procedural pain and can be used as part of a clinical assessment.

The action units should only be used in awake animals. Each animal should be observed for a short period of time to avoid scoring brief changes in facial expression that are unrelated to the animal's welfare.

	Not present "0"	Moderately present "1"	Obviously present "2"
Orbital tightening <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing of the eyelid (narrowing of orbital area)• A wrinkle may be visible around the eye			
Nose bulge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bulging on the bridge of the nose• Vertical wrinkles on the side of the nose			
Cheek bulge <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bulging of the cheeks			
Ear position <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ears rotate outwards and/or backwards, away from the face• Ears may fold to form a 'pointed' shape• Space between the ears increases			
Whisker change <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whiskers are either pulled back against the cheek, or pulled forward to 'stand on end'• Whiskers may clump together• Whiskers lose their natural 'downward' curve			

Read the original paper:
Langford DJ, Bailey AL, Chanda ML, Clarke SE, Drummond TE, Echols S, Glick S, Ingrao J, Klassen-Ross T, LaCroix-Fralish ML, Matsumiya L, Sorge RE, Sotocinal SG, Tabaka JM, Wong D, van den Maagdenberg AMJM, Ferrari MD, Craig KD, Mogil JS. 2010. Coding of facial expressions of pain in the laboratory mouse. *Nature Methods* 7(6): 447-449.
doi:10.1038/nmeth.1455
















For guidance on using the Mouse Grimace Scale, research papers that underpin this technique, and for grimace scales in other species, visit: www.nc3rs.org.uk/grimacescales.
To request copies of this poster, please email: enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk
The NC3Rs provides a range of 3Rs resources at www.nc3rs.org.uk/resources
Images kindly provided by Dr Jeffrey Mogil, McGill University

The Rabbit Grimace Scale

Research has demonstrated that changes in facial expression provide a means of assessing pain in rabbits.

The specific facial action units shown below comprise the Rabbit Grimace Scale. These action units increase in intensity in response to post-procedural pain and can form part of a clinical assessment alongside other validated indices of pain.

The action units should only be used in awake animals. Each animal should be observed for a short period of time to avoid scoring brief changes in facial expression that are unrelated to the animal's welfare.

	Action units		
	Not present "0"	Moderately present "1"	Obviously present "2"
Orbital tightening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Closing of the eyelid (narrowing of orbital area) A wrinkle may be visible around the eye 			
Cheek flattening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flattening of the cheeks. When 'obviously present', cheeks have a sunken look. The face becomes more angular and less rounded 			
Nostril shape <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nostrils (nares) are drawn vertically forming a 'V' rather than 'U' shape Nose tip is moved down towards the chin 			
Whisker shape and position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whiskers are pushed away from the face to 'stand on end' Whiskers stiffen and lose their natural, downward curve Whiskers increasingly point in the same direction. When 'obviously present', whiskers move downwards 			
Ear shape and position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ears become more tightly folded / curled (more cylindrical) in shape Ears rotate from facing towards the source of sound to facing towards the hindquarters Ears may be held closer to the back or sides of the body 			

Read the original paper: Keating SCJ, Thomas AA, Flecknell PA, Leach MC (2012) Evaluation of EMLA cream for preventing pain during tattooing of rabbits: Changes in physiological, behavioural and facial expression responses. PLOS ONE 7(9): e44437. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0044437

For guidance on using the Rabbit Grimace Scale, additional images of each action unit, research papers that underpin this technique, and for grimace scales in other species, visit: www.nc3rs.org.uk/grimacescales

To request copies of this poster, please email: enquiries@nc3rs.org.uk

The NC3Rs provides a range of 3Rs resources at www.nc3rs.org.uk/resources
Images kindly provided by Dr Matthew Leach, Newcastle University

The Rabbit Grimace Scale would not have been developed without the continuing work of the Pain and Animal Welfare Sciences Group (PAWS) at Newcastle University

5.9 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION - DAILY SPOT CLEANING CHECKLIST

Name: _____





Action	✓
Put on gloves.	
Empty and refill water bottle(s) (Fill only to fill line). Ensure the sipper tube is working and the ball in tube is moving freely allowing water to pass through tube.	
Remove any uneaten fresh vegetables that were offered the day before.	
Check food dishes for food and soiling (e.g. feces in food dish) and empty all contents if dirty. Soak dish in warm soapy water for 5 minutes, then wash, rinse and dry thoroughly before replacing in cage/habitat with fresh food.	
Check small mammal cage/habitat for damp or wet bedding. If located in a small area (e.g. under water bottle), remove wet bedding and replace with dry bedding.	
If there is strong urine odor or damp/wet bedding throughout the cage/habitat, a FULL clean should be done.	
Sweep or vacuum the shelf, table or base that the cage/habitat is sitting on of any bedding or food that has spilled over. Sweep/vacuum floor if needed.	
Throw used gloves in garbage and wash hands thoroughly.	



5.9 CLEANING AND DISINFECTION - FULL CLEANING CHECKLIST

Name: _____

Action	✓
Put on gloves.	
Remove food dish, water bottle, hut, toys and wheel and let soak in a sink of warm soapy water for 5 minutes. Wash and rinse thoroughly.	
Soak cage lid in a sink or tub of warm soapy water for 5 minutes. Wash and rinse thoroughly. Wipe down with accelerated hydrogen peroxide wipes. Let air dry.	
Dispose of remaining contents of cage/habitat (bedding, food spillage) into leak-proof bag and dispose of in designated waste bin outside.	
Soak base of cage/habitat in warm soapy water for 5 minutes. Wash and rinse thoroughly and air dry. If the cage is to be used by another animal, the cage is wiped down with accelerated hydrogen peroxide disinfectant wipes. Before placing the animal in the cage, rinse the cage with warm water to remove any hydrogen peroxide residue and dry the cage.	
Wipe down the shelf, table or base on which the cage/habitat was sitting with accelerated hydrogen peroxide wipe. Let air dry.	
Sweep/vacuum floor of any debris. Mop floor thoroughly using accelerated hydrogen peroxide disinfectant. Let air dry.	
Throw used gloves in garbage and wash hands thoroughly.	

5.10 RESOURCE LIST FOR SMALL MAMMALS

Item	Comments	Sources
Secure cages/habitats		Pet supply store
Temperature & Humidity monitor 		Hardware store
Paper-based bedding 		Pet supply store
Secure shelving unit (Designated animal housing area)	Wide and deep stainless-steel shelving units recommended	Hardware store, Costco
Exercise toys/wheels 		Pet supply store, www.bio-serv.com
Chewing and enrichment toys 		Pet supply store, www.bio-serv.com

Item	Comments	Sources
<p>Light filtering red huts</p> 		<p>Pet supply store, www.bio-serv.com</p>
<p>Light filtering red film for windows (RC-3)</p>	<p>To block exterior light (see Appendix for more information)</p>	<p>Available for purchase at www.lightgardfilms.com</p>
<p>Weigh Scale (in oz. or grams)</p>	<p>e.g. kitchen scale or small postal scale</p>	<p>Kitchen supply store</p>
<p>Hardware cloth ¼" mesh</p> 	<p>To cover vents, tubes, ducts, electrical outlets, wires, or spaces where rodents may escape</p>	<p>Hardware or Garden supply store, www.homedepot.com</p>

6. Crisis management



6.1 ANIMAL EVACUATION PROCEDURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Under certain circumstances, such as fire, animals housed at the shelter should be evacuated. Prior to a crisis requiring animals to be evacuated, practice evacuation drills are recommended, and arrangements should be made with a local facility (e.g., community center, veterinary clinic, or boarding facility) to house animals.

Fire

- Once all residents and personnel have evacuated, emergency personnel should be told the location and details of the animals in the shelter.

- Emergency personnel should be consulted to determine whether it is safe to evacuate the pets.
- If safe to do so, evacuation should be initiated in coordination with emergency personnel as follows:
 - Cats and Small Dogs: Place in cat carriers (e.g., secure kennel carrier, cardboard pet carrier, Evacsak®) located in the animal housing area. Carry away from the facility.
 - Large Dogs: Attach a leash and walk from the facility
 - Small Mammals: Where possible, take pet in its cage/habitat and walk from the facility or use a secure carrier or Evacsak®
- In the absence of a pet's owner, staff or other residents comfortable with animals may assist with the evacuation.
- Residents should walk to the area designated by the shelter for evacuations.

General (Power/HVAC failure, sewer backup, flood)

- In consultation with emergency personnel (where applicable) it should be determined whether human safety would be compromised by undertaking the evacuation.
- If safe to do so, evacuation should be initiated in coordination with emergency personnel (where applicable).
- If pets need to be temporarily re-housed, a staff member should arrange to have the animals fostered. It is recommended that a relationship with a fostering organization be established before it is called upon to assist in an emergency.

6.2 POWER FAILURE RECOMMENDATIONS

During a power failure, efforts should be made to ensure the health and welfare of the pets housed at the shelter, since mechanically assisted ventilation and temperature control will be compromised. Designated animal areas should be equipped with emergency lighting and working flashlights should be available.

Short-term power outage

- During a short-term power failure, all procedures identified by the shelter should be followed.
- If it is safe to do so, all pets should continue to be fed, watered, exercised and socialized as usual.

Long-term power outage (lasting longer than 24 hours)

- In the event of a long-term power outage, all animals in the shelter should be evacuated. (See 6.1 Animal evacuation procedure recommendations)

6.3 WATER OUTAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

There may be times when water becomes unavailable in the shelter. This will impact the ability to provide water to pets being housed, as well as the ability to clean food bowls, rooms, or animal housing units. Efforts should be taken to ensure proper care of all animals during a water outage.

Short-term water outage

- Consider using bottled drinking water to provide water to each pet.
- It is recommended that sinks, toilets, washing machines, dishwashers, showers or baths not be used.
- Planned bathing of pets should be delayed until the water is back on.

Long-term water outage (lasting longer than 72 hours)

- In the event of a long-term water outage, all animals in the shelter should be evacuated. (See 6.1 Animal evacuation procedure recommendations)

6.4 HEATING, VENTILATION AND AIR CONDITIONING FAILURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Periodically, there may be a failure with the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system. This could cause temperature fluctuations in the shelter and may be detrimental to the health and welfare of pets housed at the shelter. Steps should be taken to ensure that the animals are properly cared for during an HVAC failure.

Short-term HVAC failure

- If the heating, ventilation system, or air conditioning fail, all procedures identified by the shelter should be followed, and all animals should be cared for as usual.
- It is recommended that warming or cooling procedures be implemented as follows:
 - Portable heaters should be used (according to the equipment instructions) to increase the temperature of the facility.
 - Heaters should be kept away from carpeting, furniture and other objects in the facility.
 - Fans or other portable cooling units should be used (according to the equipment instructions) to reduce the temperature of the facility and maintain air circulation.
- Animal housing area and individual units should be inspected for condensation and/or mold.
- Regular assessments of animals are recommended and if any animal is in distress, a staff member should be notified, and arrangements made to transfer the animal to a local veterinary hospital.

Long-term HVAC failure (more than 24 hours)

- In the event of a long-term HVAC failure all animals in the shelter should be evacuated. (See 6.1 Animal evacuation procedure recommendations)



6.5 LOOSE ANIMAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Every effort should be made to prevent animals from becoming loose in the shelter. Animals should not be loose or free roaming in the shelter except in designated areas (if available). However, there may be occasions when animals accidentally get into the residence common areas and/or leave the shelter property.

Animal loose in the shelter

- If a dog/cat gets loose in the shelter facility, the pet's owner should retrieve the dog/cat and return him/her to their room.

- To prevent unnecessary bites and/or scratches, it is recommended that shelter residents not attempt to retrieve escaped pets belonging to other residents.
- The pet's owner should be responsible for cleaning any urine, feces, fur etc. that may have been left in the facility while the pet was loose.

Animal loose outside

- So long as the pet owner's personal safety is not compromised, a few minutes should be spent trying to retrieve the dog or cat by calling it by name or call signal.
- If retrieval is unsuccessful the pet owner, or another resident, should return to the shelter and notify a staff member.
- The staff member should immediately contact the appropriate authority (e.g. City By-Law) to alert them to a lost dog/cat.
- The pet owner should take a leash/carrier, and dog/cat treats, and resume calling/searching for their pet.
- If pet retrieval is still unsuccessful a staff member should notify the appropriate authority (e.g. Lost and Found department at the local humane society).
- The pet owner (or veterinary technician/veterinarian when available) should examine the pet upon recovery to check for injuries.
- The pet should be transferred to a local animal hospital if injured.

6.6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PREVENTING AND MANAGING DOG FIGHTS

Every effort should be made to prevent inter-dog aggression and/or dog fights from occurring. Fighting dogs are a safety hazard to the animals and people nearby or those who may try to intervene to break up the fight. Breaking up a dog fight should be done in as safe and calm a way as possible following the procedures listed below.

Preventing dog fights

- Dogs should always be on a leash and in control when in the shelter. Exceptions are made when the dog is free in the pet owner's room or supervised loose in a fenced designated play yard.
- It is recommended that two dogs not be removed from their rooms at the same time.
- Hallways and entry/exit areas should be checked before removing a dog from a room.
- Leashed dogs that accidentally meet in a hallway or entry way should be kept apart (using dog treats), and not be allowed to meet face-to-face or interact.
- It is recommended that elevators hold only one dog at a time.

- If there is a dog loose in any pet-friendly designated common areas of the shelter, the loose dog should be put on a leash before another dog is brought in.
- It is recommended that all dogs be walked separately, unless they are from the same household and are known to get along.
- If there is a fenced designated play yard for dogs, only one dog should be in the yard at any given time, unless the dogs come from the same household and are known to get along.
- It is recommended that toys, food or other items that dogs may fight over be removed.

BREAKING UP A FIGHT

Actions to avoid

- Avoid trying to get between the fighting dogs using your body or trying to pull the dogs apart using your arms/hands.
- Avoid yelling or screaming as this may increase the dogs' stress and their aggression.
- Avoid hitting or kicking the dogs as this will also increase the dogs' stress and aggression.

Actions to take

- STAY CALM and gather items needed to control the dogs.
- Use a signal air horn or loud whistle to distract the dogs temporarily.
- Use a citronella spray (animal deterrent) such as Spray Shield® if dogs are unresponsive to the signal air horn.
- Throw large heavy blankets (e.g. thick wool or cotton) over the dogs to separate them, place leash on dog, and remove the dog from the area to their own room.
- Exercise caution as dogs can redirect aggression towards people when agitated, even their owners.
- Where possible, have an air horn, whistle, citronella spray, and/or heavy blanket available in any area where more than one dog may meet (e.g. entry way of building, hallway, designated outdoor space).
- If available, and a dog fight occurs outside, use a water hose to spray water on the dogs to temporarily distract them.

After a dog fight





- Each dog should be thoroughly checked for injuries. Not all wounds are obvious.
- Any injuries to dogs should be examined by a veterinarian as soon as possible.
- Following a dog fight, some dogs may be more reactive to other dogs and/or people and should be kept calm and only handled by their owner.


6.7 DISEASE OUTBREAK RECOMMENDATIONS

Animals are susceptible to a number of diseases, some of which are highly contagious (e.g., Bordetella and parvovirus in dogs, panleukopenia in cats). An outbreak of one of these diseases in any animal sheltering facility can have dire consequences for the animals. It is recommended that proper hygiene protocols (see Section 1) be followed to avoid such outbreaks.

- Symptoms (e.g., coughing, sneezing, runny nose, diarrhea, vomiting) that affect more than one pet should be noted
- If the same symptoms are occurring in more than one pet, a veterinarian should be consulted as soon as possible.

6.8 RESOURCE LIST

Item	Comments	Sources
Secure kennel carrier 		Pet supply store
Cardboard pet carrier 	Can hold a pet up to 20 lb.	Available for purchase at www.petsmart.com , www.uline.ca
Evacsak® 	For cats and small dogs	Available for purchase at www.evacpet.com
Leashes	Enough for all large dogs	
Citronella spray 	Spray Shield® Animal Deterrent Spray	Available for purchase at www.petsmart.com

Item	Comments	Sources
Signal Air Horn 	Used for boating	Search “Signal Air Horn”
Large heavy blankets	2 blankets for each area	
Animal First Aid Kit		Supplies from local veterinarian (e.g. bandage material)

References

Algonquin College. Animal Health Care Facility. Companion Animal Husbandry Manual for Veterinary Assistants and Technicians.

American Humane (2010). Operational Guide: Small Mammals. Available at: <https://www.americanhumane.org/app/uploads/2016/08/op-guide-smallmammalcare.pdf>

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (2014). Fundamentals of Emergency Sheltering. Available at: https://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/aspca_webinar_slides_Fundamentals_Emergency_Sheltering.pdf

Attard, E., Duncan, K., Firmage, T., et al. (2010). Canadian Standards of Care in Animal Shelters: Supporting ASV Guidelines. Available at: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/canadian-standards-of-care-in-animal-shelters>

Canadian Council on Animal Care (2017). Guide to the Care and Use of Experimental Animals, Volume 1, 2nd Edition. Available at: https://www.ccac.ca/Documents/Standards/Guidelines/Experimental_Animals_Vol1.pdf

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (2009). A Code of Practice for Canadian Cattery Operations 1st Ed. Available at: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/a-code-of-practice-for-canadian-cattery-operations>

Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (2018). A Code of Practice for Canadian Kennel Operations 3rd Ed. Available at: <https://www.canadianveterinarians.net/documents/Code-of-Practice-for-Canadian-Kennel-Operations>

City of Gold Coast. (2009). Code of practice: For the keeping and breeding of cats and dogs. Available at: <http://www.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/documents/bf/breeder-code-practice.pdf>

Government of Canada. (2018). Department of public safety and emergency preparedness – Hazards and emergencies. Available at: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/index-en.aspx>

Humane Society of the United States (2015). Rescue Group Best Practices Guide. Available at: <http://www.animalsheltering.org/sites/default/files/content/rescue-best-practice-guide.pdf>

National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research. Grimace Scales. Available at: <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/grimacescales>

Ottawa Public Health. What do I do if I get scratched or bitten by an animal? Available at: <http://www.ottawapublichealth.ca/en/public-health-topics/rabies.aspx#What-do-I-do-if-I-get-scratched-or-bitten-by-an-animal>

Shelter Health Resources: Shelter Enrichment Resources. Available at: <https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/shelter-services/tools-tips-fact-sheets/shelter-enrichment-resources/>

Shelter Health Resources: Tools, Tips, and Fact Sheets. Available at: <https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/shelter-services/tools-tips-fact-sheets/>

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians (2010). Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters. Available at: http://www.aasao.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Canadian-Standards-of-Care-in-Animal-Shelters_Supporting-ASV-Guidelines.pdf

University of Florida. Maddie's Shelter Medicine Program. College of Veterinary Medicine. Shelter Health Resources: How to Break Up a Dog Fight. Available at: <https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/files/2015/02/breaking-up-dog-fight.pdf>

Appendices

- A. Template: Community directory
- B. Pet owner contract considerations
- C. Sample 1: Pet owner contract/agreement
- D. Sample 2: Pet owner contract/agreement
- E. Template: Pet intake form
- F. Veterinary clinic partnership considerations
- G. Template: Memorandum of understanding (MOU)
- H. Light-filtering red film for small mammals
- I. Protocol for cleaning and disinfecting cages and kennels
- J. Safety planning with pets
- K. Public health
 - i. How to stay healthy around pets - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - ii. Stay healthy around small pets - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
 - iii. General precautions zoonotic diseases of companion animals -
The Center for Food Security and Public Health
 - iv. Zoonotic disease prevention for immunocompromised individuals -
The Center for Food Security and Public Health
 - v. Principles of infection control - The Center for Food Security and Public Health
 - vi. Transmission routes of zoonotic diseases for companion animals -
The Center for Food Security and Public Health
 - vii. Select zoonotic diseases of companion animals - The Center for Food Security and Public Health

Appendix A - Template: Community Directory

Organization Name	Contact Person	Contact info (phone/email)	Website	Comments
Veterinarians/Veterinary Clinics				
Dog Trainers/Animal Behaviorists				
Animal Rescue/Foster Networks & Support				
Pet food/Supplies				
Humane Society/Animal Shelter				

Organization Name	Contact Person	Contact info (phone/email)	Website	Comments
Humane Law Enforcement				
Bylaw/Animal Control				
Veterinary/Veterinary Technician Association				
Academic Institutions/Animal Health Programs				
Temporary Boarding				

Appendix B - Pet owner contract considerations

- The pet owner contract is not intended to replace existing guidelines, policies and/or procedures, but to ensure clear communication of expectations and consequences around important issues that may arise in the co-sheltering environment.
- A pet owner contract should clearly and explicitly state the agency's expectations as well as the results of non-compliance (e.g. finding temporary home for pet while client transitions back into housing).
- Items in the pet owner contract should include priority issues for the agency such as minimizing risk and liability, as well as ensuring animal welfare, public health, safety and hygiene.
- Resources to support agency's development of a pet owner contract include local humane authorities, bylaw or animal control and public health agencies, as well as legal counsel.
- Issues to consider include but are not limited to the following:

Animal health and welfare

- Care and health of animals
 - Provision of food, supplies, daily needs (e.g. exercise, socialization)
 - Access to veterinary care
 - Health requirements (e.g. spay/neuter, vaccinations, parasite control)
 - Preventing breeding of animals
 - Acquisition of new pets while in shelter
- Protocol for animal abandonment (e.g. what constitutes abandonment e.g. 24hrs)
- Protocol for alternative care for pet (e.g. client requiring hospitalization, creating a pet care plan)
- Protocol for animal cruelty or neglect (e.g. what constitutes animal cruelty or neglect)

Animal-related logistics

- Number of pets allowed per person or room
- Species of pets allowed and/or prohibited
- Minimum age of pets allowed
- Who can provide pet care and make decisions on pet related issues (e.g. other residents, family members, children over the age of XX years)
- Access or restrictions to common areas and/or shared space (e.g. outdoor yard, living room)
- Protocol for problem behaviors (e.g. excessive barking, house soiling)

- Room/Units
 - Cleanliness and hygiene are maintained
 - Room inspections (e.g. Clients with pets are present for inspections)
- Limits on obligation to provide accommodations for animal companions

Public health and hygiene

- Behavior and control of animals (e.g. use of leashes, carriers) in shared space in building (e.g. elevators, entrances) and respectful of others' personal space (e.g. cultural sensitivity)
- Indoor and outdoor property hygiene (e.g. waste pick up and disposal)
- Risk mitigation for animals with aggression or bite history (e.g. must wear basket muzzle in public, identification such as bandana color to identify as fearful, animal behavior/training support)
- Protocol in case of animal bite incident (e.g. seek medical care for person and/or animal, notify appropriate authorities such as public health)

Legislation

- Provisions for service animals, emotional support or therapy animals (state/provincial-based legislation)
 - Required documentation, health care provider contact
- Compliance with local government orders (e.g. infectious disease) that may include mandatory vaccination, quarantine or restricted movement (animal or human).
- Compliance with any state/provincial/local breed specific legislation or dangerous dog orders.

Note: The two sample contracts that follow are from agencies that are co-sheltering with their identifying information removed when requested.

Appendix C - Sample 1: pet contract/agreement

LA Family Housing

Participant Service/Emotional Support Animal Guidelines

LA Family Housing (LAFH) generally prohibits animals in its buildings or on its grounds. LAFH recognizes, however, that certain participants have a medical or emotional need to have a service/emotional support animal and will reasonably accommodate these needs. LAFH will comply with all state and federal laws by ensuring that persons with disabilities have equal access to LAFH's facilities and participate in LAFH's programs and services. LAFH hereby incorporates the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's Service Animal Accommodation Policy dated July 1, 2010, a copy of which is available upon request.

The following definitions shall apply to these Guidelines:

Person or Individual with a Disability. A person who has a sensory, physical or mental impairment that limits one or more major life activities, including but not limited to walking, talking, seeing, breathing, hearing, or living independently.

Pet. A domesticated animal kept for pleasure or companionship. Pets are not considered service or emotional support animals.

Service Animal. Any dog or other common domestic animal individually trained to do work for or perform tasks for the benefit of a qualified person with a disability. The "training" of a service animal need not be formal or professional, nor result in any special license or certification. Examples of service animals include guide dogs to help people with visual impairments; hearing/signal dogs to assist people who are deaf or hearing impaired; warning dogs to assist people with epilepsy; psychiatric service animals trained to do work or perform tasks for individuals with psychiatric disabilities (e.g. providing counterbalance/bracing for participant's dizziness resulting from psychotropic medication); and other animals that have been trained to assist individuals with a mobility or health impairment, in performing tasks including, but not limited to, carrying, fetching, opening doors, and ringing doorbells. A service animal is not a pet.

Emotional Support Animal. An animal that helps an individual with psychiatric disabilities manage or alleviate the symptoms of those disabilities, by providing therapeutic nurture, comfort and support. Emotional support animals are not required to have specialized training.

Participants that require the assistance of a service animal are not required to provide any form of documentation.

Participants that require the assistance of an emotional support animal may be required to provide documentation from a medical provider, psychologist, social worker, non-medical service provider, peer support group member, or other reliable third party that the participant has a disability and that the animal provides support that alleviates a symptom or effect of his or her disability. A determination regarding whether any documentation for an emotional support animal is required will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Documentation acquired on the Internet will not be accepted.

Please note that the service/emotional support animal(s) must be able to reside with the participant in his/her room. LAFH will make reasonable accommodations for support animals on site. Owners of service/support animals are responsible for the care and maintenance of their animal(s) at all times; owners must sign and adhere to the care guidelines as stated below:

The Managing Agent must approve all pets; no other animals of any kind are permitted on the rental premises (even on a short term or temporary basis), including reptiles or any other animals. The owner grants to Resident permission to keep the aforementioned Pet in the premises subject to the following terms and conditions, and this becomes part of the lease agreement.

1. Animals must be controlled by the participant at all times.

- a. Participants must maintain control of the animal at all times. While a service/emotional support animal is in a common area, it should be under the direct control of the participant or an assistant. When in the presence of others, a service/emotional support animal is expected to be well behaved.
- b. Participants must feed, water, exercise and cleanup after their animal.
- c. When outside of the participant's dwelling, a service/emotional support dog must be on a leash at all times. It should never be permitted to wander off its leash except if it is working.
- d. Cats must be carried or kept in an appropriately sized crate/carrier when outside the participant's dwelling.
- e. Animals must be secured in a carrier if the participant is not in the room.

2. The participant is responsible for taking care of his/her animal

- a. The animal must have food and fresh water.
- b. Dogs must be walked on a daily basis.
- c. Waste material is to be picked-up and properly disposed.
- d. The animal must be kept clean – e.g. bathed one time per week or as needed; the participant is responsible for cleaning the bathroom tub or sink if used for animal washing.
- e. Crate/carriers must be washed on a weekly basis.
- f. Participants must keep their animal current with any required vaccinations (proof is required) and attend to any medical needs that their animal may have.
- g. Animals must be free of fleas and other pests.
- h. Owners must agree store food for their animals in designated areas and may not to leave food or water for their animal outside of their dwelling where it may attract other animals.

3. The participant must follow BH policy regarding support/service animals on site:

- a. Animal must be in a crate if left unattended in participant's assigned space
- b. Animal must be leashed at all times
- c. Animal is not permitted to enter dining areas (excludes service animals)

- d. If the owner allows another participant to watch the animal, this decision is solely the responsibility of the owner and the animal's behavior remains the responsibility of the owner

4. Owners must have an identified emergency care person.

- a. Owners must provide the name and contact information of an emergency care person who will take care of their animal in the event that the owner is in the hospital, jail, or otherwise indisposed.
- b. Animal control will be contacted if the emergency care person is unable to be contacted or unwilling to care for the animal.

5. Owners must have a current City of Los Angeles License, spay/neuter, emotional support animal letter and up to date vaccinations for their animal.

6. Participants will be required to remove their animals for any of the following reasons:

- a. The animal's behavior poses a direct threat to the safety of others and the threat cannot be eliminated by a reasonable modification.
- b. The animal is disruptive and interfering with the program and the participant does not take effective action to control it.
- c. The animal is creating an unsanitary condition.

7. LA Family Housing is not responsible for the care and safety of the animal. Owners assume all liability for their support animal.

My designated emergency care person is: _____ who can be reached at the

following address and telephone number _____

I understand the shelter guidelines for service/emotional support animals. I know that I can be required to remove my animal from the shelter if I do not follow the Participant Service/Emotional Support Animal Guidelines.

Participant's name **(print)**

Participant's name **(signature)**

Staff signature

Date

Appendix D - Sample 2: pet contract/agreement from a co-sheltering agency

“Service Dog or Companion Animal Acknowledgment”

Resident: _____ Badge #: _____

Animal's Name: _____ Species: _____

I, _____ (hereafter referred to as “Resident” or “I”) acknowledge and understand that I am responsible for all actions of or related to my Service Dog/Companion Animal (hereafter referred to as “Animal”), including but not limited to:

- Resident will not permit Animal to cause any damage to the property.
- Animal must be housebroken. Resident will ensure Animal uses the [name of organization]-designated area(s) for elimination purposes and will immediately clean up and properly dispose of the waste. Note: Dogs must be trained to eliminate outside. Training pads are not an acceptable method of demonstrating Animal is housebroken.
- Animal must be under control at all times. Resident agrees to keep Animal on a leash or other restraint at all times in cubicles or whenever it is outside of Resident's bed area.
- In the event that [name of organization] staff or contractor personnel need access to the living area, Animal will be with Resident or humanely confined in an appropriately sized crate provided by Resident. The Humane Society of the United States defines an appropriately sized crate as “just large enough for (Animal) to stand up and turn around in”.⁴
- Resident will provide food for Animal and will ensure fresh water is regularly accessible. Note: Food bowls must be kept clean and food must be stored in a sealed container provided by Resident so that it does not act as an attractant for pests. Food must be indicated for consumption by an animal and will not be provided by the [name of organization]. “Human food” stored in Resident's living space will be considered a violation of program rules and will result in a permanent point.
- Resident is responsible for providing regular medical care and basic grooming services, to include regular flea preventative measures, to Animal when needed. Note: A volunteer veterinarian provides services on-site on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

⁴ http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/dogs/tips/crate_training.html

By signing below, I am confirming that I have read and understand the foregoing as a Service Dog or Companion Animal owner for the duration of my stay at the [name of organization]. I understand that, should my animal pose a direct threat to the health or safety of others or if my animal is out of control and I do not take effective action to control it, my animal will be asked to leave the [name of organization] immediately. I also understand that I am responsible for all actions of my Service Dog or Companion Animal, including harm caused by the Service Dog or Companion Animal to other people.

Resident: _____ Date: _____

Appendix E - Template: Pet intake form

Intake date: _____ Room: _____ Intake completed by: _____

Owner(s) name(s): _____ Phone: _____

Name of other on-site pet caretaker(s)/guardian(s): _____ Phone: _____

Name of veterinarian/veterinary clinic (if applicable): _____

I consent to the release of my pet's medical records to the veterinarian/veterinary clinic serving the shelter: ☐ Yes _____ (initials) ☐ No

Pet name	Species	Breed	Age	Sex (M/F)	Spayed/Neutered (Y/N)	Vaccinated (Y/N)	Medical Records (Y/N)	Medical Issues	Medications
Notes:									

I assert that the information provided is true to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any omission, inaccuracies or failure to make full disclosures may result in [e.g. the loss of my pet sheltering/housing privileges].

Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Appendix F- Veterinary clinic partnership considerations

A partnership agreement (such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)) between veterinary clinic(s) and emergency shelters is encouraged in order to ensure:

- access to veterinary care for co-sheltered animals (e.g. preventive care, medical and/or surgical care, emergency care, humane euthanasia)
- agency or situation-specific and ongoing guidance with animal-related matters and public health
- protocols are developed for scope of care, fee structure and invoicing, communication (e.g. contacts and referrals), medical record keeping and sharing, personal information sharing and privacy protection, and risk mitigation.

Veterinary clinics may develop different models for partnerships or agreements with emergency shelters, including but not limited to offering pro bono services, offering services at reduced fees, or offering services that may be supported through fundraising efforts.

The agreement should provide details on what services are covered by the agreement, and what fee structures are offered, including but not limited to treatments, laboratory tests, medications, surgery, dentistry and imaging.

Important to note:

- Sharing of client and patient information must adhere to appropriate personal privacy protection legislation.
- In cases of domestic violence, appropriate levels of disclosure and record keeping may be required to protect the safety and location of the person and their animal who have left an abusive situation.
- MOUs are not legally binding and are intended to provide clear and explicit descriptions of mutually agreed upon communications, roles and responsibilities, protocols, and services as well as other important issues such as confidentiality and risk mitigation.
- Any agreement should be reviewed by respective legal counsel.

Appendix G - Template: Memorandum of understanding (MOU)

Between

[Name of Emergency Shelter]

And

[Name of Veterinarian/Veterinary Clinic]

Background

[Emergency Shelter Information]

[Veterinary Clinic Information]

Roles and Responsibilities [Name of Veterinary Clinic/Animal Hospital] agrees to:

Protocols for

- Patient (animal) referral
- Primary contacts and communications with agency and owner (e.g. preferred method to communicate – email, phone, etc.)
- Invoicing
- Medical record keeping and sharing (e.g. to ensure client safety)
- Obtaining previous patient medical records

Services

[Services to be provided should be listed here, including any required timelines (e.g. exam/vaccinations within 24hrs of intake), fee structure/cost of services provided, and limitations on cases (e.g. number of cases in a time period, types of cases (e.g. dog spays under 7 years of age). Below is a sample list of services that should be discussed]

Veterinary Services Agreement

Service	Time period	Fee structure	Limitations
Examination/ Consultation			
Vaccinations			
Parasite control			
Spay/Neuter			
Diagnostics (lab, rad)			
Hospitalization			
Surgical/Dental care			
Medical care/ Treatments			
Euthanasia/Aftercare			
Emergency/on-call care			
Prescription food/ medication			
OTC product/supplies			
Notes:			

Fundraising

[Describe any fundraising activities that will be held to support veterinary care including any details on partner/community involvement]

Data sharing

[Describe how (if any) data would be shared. For example, for program evaluation, funding, reporting or research purposes].

[Name of Shelter/Agency] agrees to:

Protocols for

- Patient (animal) referral
- Booking an appointment
- Medical emergencies
- Transportation of client/animal to and from the clinic
- Primary contacts and communications with veterinarian/veterinary clinic (e.g. preferred method to communicate – email, phone, etc.)
- Medical Record Keeping
 - Copy of pet medical records to be received from Veterinary Clinic/Animal Hospital
 - Copy of pet medical records kept with client file electronically or hard copy
- Payment for services

Data sharing and tracking

[Describe how (if any) data would be shared. For example, for program evaluation, funding, reporting or research purposes. For example, number of animals entering shelter/agency, number of animals referred for veterinary care, length of stay at shelter/agency, pet health or behavior issues.]

Acknowledgement and/or Media

[Acknowledgement of partnership (e.g. website, press release, social media)]

Risk Mitigation

[For example, in many states/provinces, veterinarians are required to report suspected cases of animal abuse or neglect. Other considerations include authorization for care and informed consent. Provision and cost of emergency care, chronic or ongoing care and treatment, and non-preventive medical and surgical care should also be discussed.]

Commencement

This MOU will take effect upon signing by both parties.

Revisions

The MOU may be amended at any time only by written agreement signed by each of the parties.

Misunderstanding

Should there be a misunderstanding of this MOU, the signing agencies shall meet to clarify the terms of the agreement.

Termination

This MOU may be terminated by either party by providing 4 weeks' written notice.

Name of Signing Authority

Position

[Name of Shelter/Agency]

Signature of Signing Authority

Date

[Name of Signing Authority]

Position

[Name of Veterinary Clinic/Animal Hospital]

Signature of Signing Authority

Date

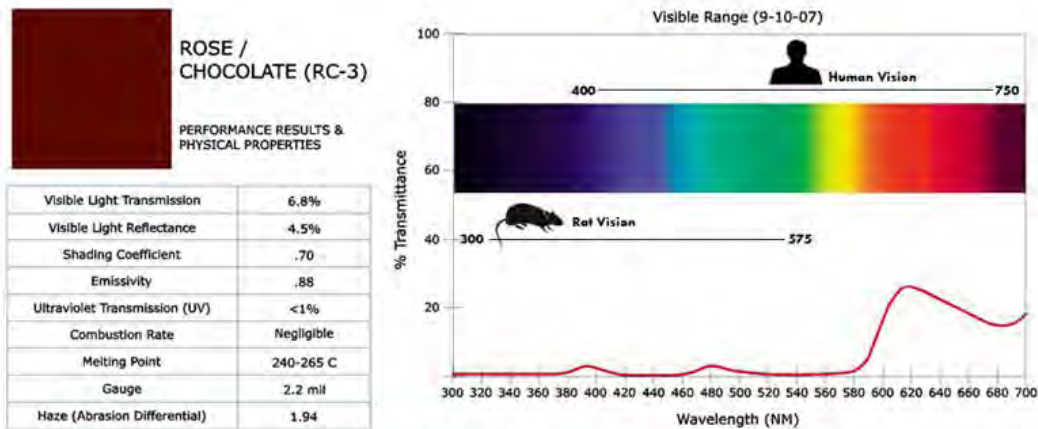
Appendix H - Light filtering red film for small mammals

RC-3 (ROSE-CHOCOLATE) WINDOW FILM SPECS SHEET

RC-3 (Rose/Chocolate) is used on glass and clear polycarbonate materials to filter out the UV blue-green light spectrum (200-580 nm's - see specs below). Successful applications of RC-3 create controlled light conditions for lab situations such as: nocturnal animals living in cages.

Usage for, but limited to: lab windows, doors, cages, cubicles, light fixtures, and bulb covers.

RC-3 is constructed of laminated dyed color polyester films designed for the control of specific spectral light and transmission levels and heat treated with UV inhibitors. RC-3 is then laminated with an acrylic adhesive for applications to glass and polycarbonates and coated with a scratch resistant coating. Wavelength readings are tested on the Filmstar Report Generator (Spectrogard Model 96). Scratch coating tests are per AMTM D1044 "Standard Test Method for Resistance of Transparent Plastics to Surface Abrasion". Field life is 25 to 35+ years for interior applications.



*** Average light transmission 300nm to 580nm is 0.884%**

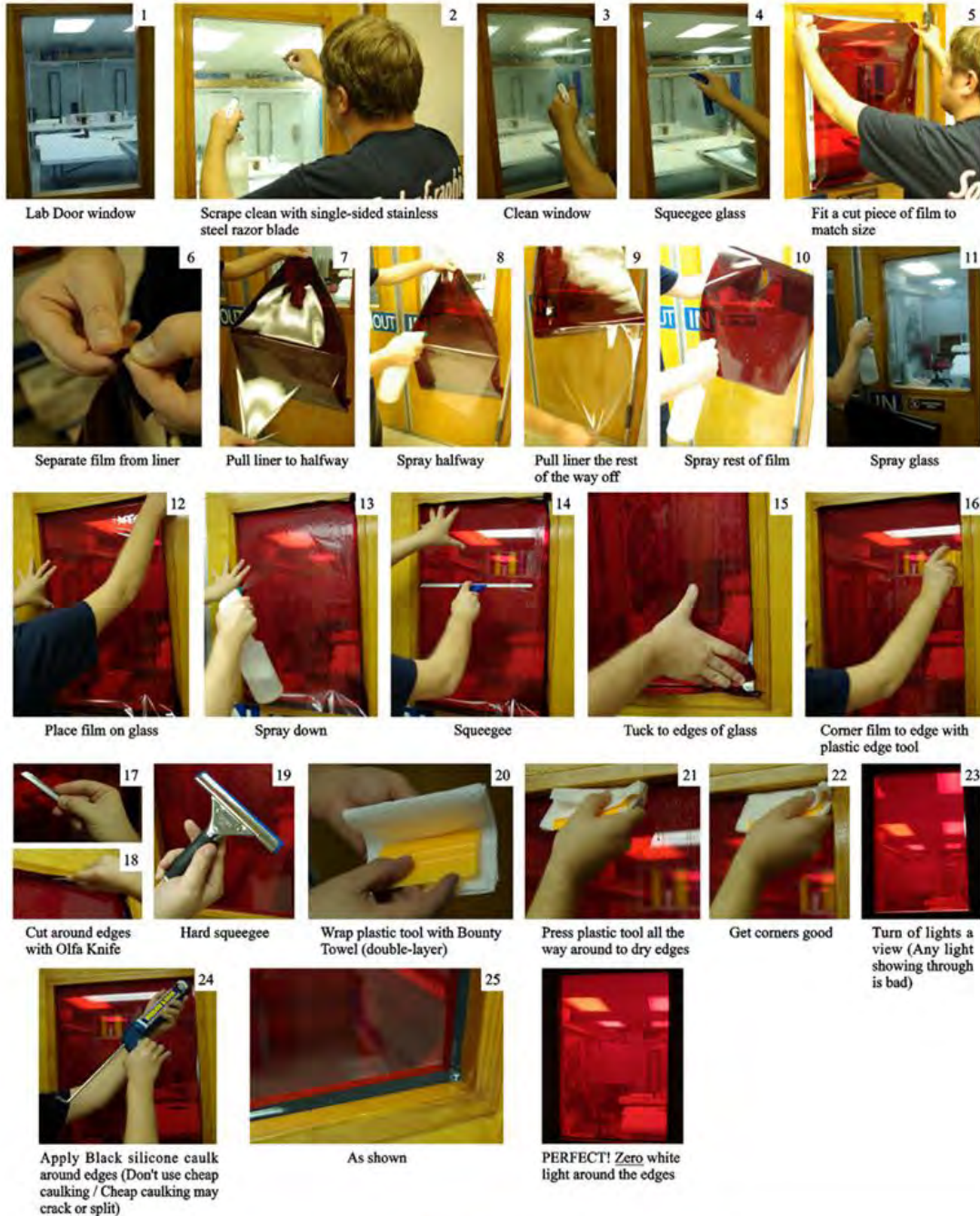
% Transmittance versus Wavelength in Nanometers

300.000, 0.016	305.000, 0.013	310.000, 0.015	315.000, 0.034	320.000, 0.044
325.000, 0.051	330.000, 0.033	335.000, 0.027	340.000, 0.029	345.000, 0.028
350.000, 0.029	355.000, 0.023	360.000, 0.016	365.000, 0.025	370.000, 0.055
375.000, 0.175	380.000, 0.666	385.000, 1.722	390.000, 2.767	395.000, 2.804
400.000, 2.017	405.000, 1.324	410.000, 0.849	415.000, 0.399	420.000, 0.115
425.000, 0.032	430.000, 0.027	435.000, 0.035	440.000, 0.027	445.000, 0.007
450.000, 0.002	455.000, 0.009	460.000, 0.124	465.000, 0.666	470.000, 1.735
475.000, 2.666	480.000, 2.879	485.000, 2.518	490.000, 1.950	495.000, 1.439
500.000, 1.087	505.000, 0.863	510.000, 0.703	515.000, 0.564	520.000, 0.427
525.000, 0.318	530.000, 0.252	535.000, 0.235	540.000, 0.262	545.000, 0.321
550.000, 0.408	555.000, 0.483	560.000, 0.525	565.000, 0.540	570.000, 0.580
575.000, 0.731	580.000, 1.185	585.000, 2.347	590.000, 4.848	595.000, 9.121



Call us at: 1-800-869-8468
www.lightgardfilms.com

RC-3 ROSE / CHOCOLATE **HOW-TO INSTALL (on lab window)**



solargx@aol.com **Solar Graphics** 1-800-869-8468

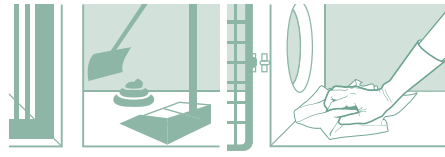
Appendix I - Protocol for cleaning and disinfecting cages and kennels



CAGES & KENNELS

4 Steps to Disinfection

1 Remove animals, food and water bowls and pre-clean by removing any visible soils



2 Apply the Prevail™ disinfectant using product of choice¹



CONCENTRATE DILUTION CHART

AREA	DILUTION	CONTACT TIME ¹	DESCRIPTION ¹
Non-Animal Related Areas (Hallways & Offices)	1:128 (8mL/1 Litre)	30 Seconds	Non-Food Contact Sanitization
Daily Disinfection of all Animal Housing Areas and Enclosures	1:40 (25mL/1 Litre)	5 Minutes	Tuberculocide, Virucide, Bactericide and Fungicide
High Risk/Quarantine Areas	1:40 (25mL/1 Litre)	5 Minutes	Tuberculocide, Virucide, Bactericide and Fungicide
Confirmed Disease/Outbreak Conditions	1:40 (25mL/1 Litre)	5 Minutes	Tuberculocide, Virucide, Bactericide and Fungicide

3 Ensure surface remains wet for the required contact time¹



4 Allow surface to air dry or wipe dry²

¹ Refer to product label for use instructions and/or reference sheet for complete list of claims and use instructions

² Some surfaces may require rinsing

PRODUCT OPTIONS:

Prevail™ Concentrate¹

- Refer to dilution chart

Prevail™ Ready to Use¹

- 3 minute contact time

Prevail™ Wipes¹

- 3 minute contact time

SURFACES CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Inside of Cage/Kennel
- ☐ Front of Cage/Kennel Door (individual bars)
- ☐ Cage/Kennel Door Latch

For more information visit:
ViroxAnimalHealth.com





Are you a pet owner in an abusive relationship? Are you thinking of leaving?

Here are some things to think about.

KNOWN AND INCREASED RISKS TO ANIMALS

- Any prior history (including childhood) of animal abuse, torture or neglect by the abuser.
- A history of severe physical violence, even if the pet has not (yet) been harmed.
- Pets used as forms of victim intimidation, coercion or control of survivors of violence.
- Significant emotional abuse of children.
- Child protection services deems that children are at risk and only supervised parental visits are permitted.
- Substance abuse and weapon possession/use by the abuser.
- Abuser having knowledge that partner is planning to leave.
- Timing of planned exit from relationship/co-habitation.

Michelle Lem DVM, MSc, MSW, RSW
Community Veterinary Outreach

Erin Wasson BSW, MSW, RSW
Western College of Veterinary Medicine

Bridget Curran MSW, RSW



Community
Veterinary
Outreach

SAFETY PLANNING FOR PETS

Collect

Prepare

Proof of pet ownership Licensing documents, pet medical records/ vaccination certificate, microchip registration	Call municipality, veterinary office and/or microchip registry to add or change ownership/contact information, if necessary
Pet identification	Microchip (recommended), and/or ID tag with name and safe/trusted phone number (a friend or veterinary clinic)
Proof of pet's vaccination status Vaccination certificate and copy of pet's medical records	Call your veterinarian to request a copy of your pet's vaccination certificates and medical records (emailed and/or hard copy versions)
Your pet's information that will be helpful for foster or temporary caregiver	Prepare an information document for each pet with a pet photo and the following details: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand/type of pet food, feeding schedule/amount • Pet's normal daily routine/structure/activity (rest, walks, play) • Medical conditions • Behaviour/training issues (such as pulling on leash, house soiling, aggression, food/toy/space guarding, separation anxiety) • List of medications and instructions for giving medication(s) • Likes/dislikes • Is your pet good with dogs? Describe • Is your pet good with cats? Describe • Is your pet good with other animals? Examples: rodents, rabbits, etc. • Is your dog comfortable being crated/confined when unsupervised?
Carrier/kennel for cats/small dogs Leash/flat collar for large dogs	Obtain a safe and secure carrier/kennel with blanket/towel Know your pet's favourite hiding/sleeping spots and how to contain the room (example: close doors) Keep areas clear of clutter so that you can quickly and easily retrieve your pet Practise putting your pet in the carrier regularly using treats or by feeding your pet in the carrier with the door left open
Pet supplies	Prepare a bag or bin with a week's worth of pet food (tightly sealed, label with expiration date), extra bowls, bedding, toys, litter/litterbox and grooming supplies. Obtain extra items; do not remove ones that are currently being used in the home.
List of community pet supports	Prepare a list of contacts including phone numbers/email addresses of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends and/or family who could provide temporary pet care • Pet-friendly shelters in the community (such as Interval House Ottawa) • Pet fostering programs in the community (such as SafePet) • Case workers/counsellors who will advocate for your pet's care on your behalf • Compassionate boarding options (local dog kennels and/or catteries, humane societies, veterinary clinics) • Community veterinary support organizations (such as Community Veterinary Outreach)
Local crisis support	Name/Number: _____ Name/Number: _____


Appendix K - Public health






HOW TO STAY HEALTHY AROUND PETS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Accessible information: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/publications/stay-healthy-pets.html>


HOW TO STAY HEALTHY AROUND PETS



-  **Always wash your hands**—and your child's—after handling or being around animals or their waste, food, or supplies (like cages, water bowls, toys, beds, leashes, etc.). This is especially important before handling baby bottles and pacifiers or holding infants.
- **Choose the right pets for your household.** Do some research before getting a new pet.
 -  » Children under 5 years of age, adults over 65 years of age, and anyone with a weakened immune system should not have contact with rodents, reptiles, amphibians, and poultry.
- **Don't kiss, snuggle, or hold** rodents, reptiles, amphibians, and poultry close to your face. These animals are more likely to spread germs.
- **Always supervise children around pets.** Don't let them kiss their pets, hold pets close to their faces, or allow pets to lick their face or mouth.
- **Keep pets and their supplies out of the kitchen** or other areas where you prepare, serve, or eat food.
- **Clean up after animals properly.**
 -  » Scoop cat litter daily (especially if anyone in the home is pregnant) and change it at least twice weekly. Pregnant women should not clean cat litter.
 -  » Always remove dog waste from private and public spaces.
 -  » Clean cages, habitats, and supplies outside the home when possible to avoid contaminating surfaces. If that is not possible, then clean them in a laundry sink or bathtub and then disinfect that
- **Avoid rough play with animals** to prevent bites and scratches. Teach children to play with animals appropriately. Do not let small children near pets that are eating.
- **Clean bites and scratches immediately** with soap and water, and seek medical care if the wound is serious or becomes red, painful, warm, or swollen; the animal appears sick; or if you don't know the vaccination status of the animal.
- **Enjoy wildlife from a safe distance** to avoid illness and injury.

www.cdc.gov/healthypets

311028-A



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

STAY HEALTHY AROUND SMALL PETS

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Accessible version: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/publications/stay-healthy-around-small-pets.html>

Stay healthy around small pets!



Pet rodents (such as mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, and guinea pigs) and other small pets (such as hedgehogs, sugar gliders, chinchillas, and ferrets) can sometimes carry germs that can make people sick. These germs can cause illnesses ranging from serious diarrhea to birth defects.

- Small pets can carry germs even if they look healthy and clean.
- Germs are shed in their droppings and can easily contaminate their bodies, habitats, toys, bedding, and anything in areas where they live.
- » These germs can spread to people after they touch these animals or anything in their habitats.

But there's good news! You can take steps to stay healthy while enjoying your pets.

PROTECT YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY FROM GERMS



PICK THE RIGHT PET FOR YOUR FAMILY.

Rodents and other small pets are not recommended for children under 5 years old, adults over 65, or people with weakened immune systems because they are at a greater risk for serious illness from germs that pets can carry.

KEEP IT CLEAN.



Keep small pets and their supplies out of kitchens and other areas where food is prepared, served, stored, or consumed.

- Clean habitats, toys, and supplies outside the house when possible.
- If you clean supplies indoors, use a laundry sink or bathtub, and thoroughly clean and disinfect the area right after.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
WWW.CDC.GOV/HEALTHYPETS**

WASH YOUR HANDS.

Always wash hands thoroughly with soap and water right after touching, feeding, or caring for your pets or cleaning their habitats.

- Adults should supervise hand washing for young children.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer until you are able to wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.



PLAY SAFELY.

- Don't kiss, snuggle, or hold small pets close to your face.
- Don't let them roam free in your home.
- Don't touch your mouth after handling small pets.
- Don't eat or drink around animals.



**Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention**
National Center for Emerging and
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

CS294770-A

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS ZONOTIC DISEASES OF COMPANION ANIMALS

The Center for Food Security and Public Health

GENERAL PRECAUTIONS ZONOTIC DISEASES OF COMPANION ANIMALS



This handout provides general precautions to prevent the transmission of zoonotic diseases. Additional precautions should be taken by persons with weakened or compromised immune systems.

Hand Washing and Hygiene

Hand washing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of disease. Warm water and soap should be used for a minimum of 20 seconds (sing 'Happy Birthday' twice). Antimicrobial hand gels can be effective when hands are not visibly dirty.

- Wash your hands often!!
 - **BEFORE**—preparing food; eating; any contact with infants or young children
 - **AFTER**—contact with pets or other animals; cleaning up pet waste or cages; using the restroom; blowing your nose; changing infant diapers
- Supervise children to ensure proper hand washing
- Avoid direct contact with animal feces
 - Wear gloves when gardening, cleaning up animal waste or changing litter boxes
 - Cover outdoor sandboxes when not in use
 - Keep litter boxes away from kitchen and eating areas
- Clean and disinfect areas accessed by pets
 - Change cat litter boxes daily; disinfect once a month
 - Remove pet waste in the yard, in cages or kennels weekly
 - Clean bird cage linings daily
- Wear disposable gloves when cleaning animal cages or cleaning aquariums —Wash hands after finished

Children and Animals

Children, especially those 5 years old and younger, should always be supervised while interacting with animals.

- Do NOT let children:
 - Put their hands or other objects (e.g., pacifiers) into their mouths when they are around animals or animal areas
 - Play roughly with pets – to avoid bites and scratches
 - Kiss pets or allow pets to lick the children's face

Pet Health

- Keeping pets healthy can minimize zoonotic diseases
 - Have your pet checked by a veterinarian twice a year
 - Keep vaccinations current, especially rabies
 - Use veterinarian recommended tick and flea prevention
 - Pets with diarrhea should be examined by a veterinarian
- Do not allow your animal to eat other animal's feces
- Do not feed raw or under cooked meats to your pet—feed pets a high-quality commercial pet food

Personal Protection While Outdoors

- Wildlife can be infected with zoonotic diseases
 - Avoid contact with wild animals or waterfowl or their feces
 - Bats, raccoons, skunks, and foxes can be infected with rabies—If bitten, contact a physician immediately
 - Do not allow pets to interact with wildlife
- Avoid insect vectors (e.g., ticks and mosquitoes)
 - Avoid wooded areas or peak vector activity times (e.g., dusk and dawn for mosquitoes)
 - Wear light-colored clothing and long sleeve shirts and long pants if visiting wooded areas
 - Use EPA-approved insect repellents (e.g., DEET or picaridin)
 - NOTE: DEET should not be used on pets
- Use vector control measures around your home
 - Remove stagnant water sources to minimize mosquito breeding areas

Food Safety

- Handle and prepare foods safely
 - Do not eat raw or under cooked meat or eggs
 - Cook foods, especially meats, thoroughly until the internal temperature reaches 165°F
 - Wash raw fruits and vegetables before eating
 - Avoid raw milk or unpasteurized dairy products
 - Avoid cross contamination in the kitchen
 - Use separate cutting boards for meat items and fruits and vegetables
 - Store food promptly at the proper temperature
- Promptly wash any kitchen utensils, or surfaces that have been in contact with raw meat or eggs

For More Information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Healthy Pets Healthy People
www.cdc.gov/healthypets/

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

Safe Pet Guidelines
www.pawssf.org/graphics/education/safe_pet_guidelines.pdf

ZOONOTIC DISEASE PREVENTION FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED INDIVIDUALS

The Center for Food Security and Public Health

ZOONOTIC DISEASE PREVENTION FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED INDIVIDUALS



Zoonoses (diseases that can be spread between animals and humans) can be a greater risk for individuals with weakened or compromised immune systems. Proper prevention can minimize the risk to these individuals, allowing them - in most cases - to keep their pet.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Frequent hand washing is essential and one of the most effective ways to prevent zoonotic disease transmission.

- **Hands should be washed often**
 - **BEFORE**—preparing food; eating; any contact with infants or young children
 - **AFTER**—having contact with pets or other animals; cleaning up pet waste or cages; using the restroom; blowing your nose; changing infant diapers
- **Avoid contact with pet feces and urine, including litter pans, cages or aquaria**
 - Immunocompromised persons should NOT clean animal waste areas, litter boxes, or fish tanks
 - These areas should be cleaned by someone who is not immunocompromised
- **If avoidance with animal waste is not possible, the following precautions should be taken:**
 - Wear vinyl or rubber gloves when cleaning the pet areas, litter pans, cages or aquaria
 - Avoid generating and inhaling dust – wear a facial mask, if this cannot be avoided
 - After cleaning animal areas, immediately remove gloves and wash your hands with soap and water

Pet Selection

- **Careful consideration should be made before acquiring a new pet**
 - Consult with your physician and veterinarian before adopting a new animal
 - Adopt an adult animal; they are less likely to transmit zoonotic diseases than young animals
- **Certain animals can pose an increased risk of zoonotic disease transmission to immunocompromised persons and should be avoided. These include:**
 - Reptiles (turtles, lizards, or snakes)
 - Amphibians (frogs)
 - Baby chicks and ducklings
 - Animals younger than 6 months of age
 - Exotic pets, such as monkeys, sugar gliders or prairie dogs
 - Wild animals, such as raccoons or skunks
- **Avoid stray or wild animals**
 - The health of stray or wild animals is unknown; disease transmission may occur through bites or scratches

Pet Care

- **Keeping pets healthy can minimize zoonotic diseases**
 - Have your pet checked by a veterinarian twice a year
 - Keep vaccinations current, especially rabies
 - Use veterinarian recommended tick and flea prevention
 - Pets with diarrhea should be examined by a veterinarian
- **Do not allow pets to interact with wildlife**
- **Do not allow your animal to eat other animal's feces**
- **Do not feed raw or under cooked meats to your pet—feed pets a high-quality commercial pet food**

Animal Contact

- **Keep pet's nails clipped to minimize scratching**
 - If you are scratched or bitten, immediately wash the wound with soap and water; consult your physician to determine whether additional treatment is needed
- **Do not play roughly with pets to avoid bites and scratches**
- **Do not handle animals that have diarrhea**
 - Have a friend/relative (who is not immunocompromised) take your pet to a veterinarian to determine the cause
- **Do not let pets lick your face or mouth, any open cuts or wounds**

In general, the risk of getting a disease from your pet is low. The benefit of animal companionship usually outweighs the potential risks.

For More Information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

Healthy Pets Healthy People.
www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.htm

For People at Extra Risk.
www.cdc.gov/healthypets/extra_risk.htm

Preventing infections from pets: A guide for people with HIV infection.
www.cdc.gov/hiv/pubs/brochure/oi_pets.htm

Pet-Scripton.
www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pdf/petscript_general.pdf

Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) and the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS)

Safe Pet Guidelines
www.pawssf.org/graphics/education/safe_pet_guidelines.pdf

PRINCIPLES OF INFECTION CONTROL

The Center for Food Security and Public Health

PRINCIPLES OF INFECTION CONTROL *Minimizing the spread of infectious diseases in animal shelter settings*



Infection control is essential to prevent the introduction and spread of disease. This handout highlights important measures for infection control in animal shelters and steps to protect personnel from zoonotic disease risks.

Animal Health

The health of an animal plays a key role in its ability to ward off infection. In a shelter, important components of health maintenance include proper veterinary care, good nutrition, stress reduction, and effective record keeping.

- **All animals should be vaccinated with core vaccines on entry; this includes DHPP for dogs and FVRCP for cats**
 - Many shelters also vaccinate dogs intranasally for *Bordetella bronchiseptica*
 - Rabies vaccination should also be considered, but does not have to occur on intake
- **Animals should be examined by a veterinarian shortly after intake**
- **All animals should receive a weight-specific dose of routine dewormer**
 - Use of a broad-spectrum product like pyrantel pamoate, praziquantel and febantel is optimal
- **Do not feed raw or undercooked meats**
- **Rodent proof the main shelter building, barns, and other buildings, if present**
 - Keep pet food in rodent-proof containers with tight lids

Personal Protection

- **Protective clothing**
 - Gloves, smocks, uniforms, dedicated boots or disposable booties can help to minimize disease pathogen transfer and protect personnel
 - When airborne infectious particles are suspected, glasses or masks may be required
- **Avoid insect vectors (e.g., ticks and mosquitoes)**
 - Avoid being outside during peak vector activity times (e.g., dusk and dawn for mosquitoes)
 - Wear long sleeve shirts and long pants while outside
 - Use insect repellent containing DEET—
NOTE: DEET should not be used on pets
- **Use vector control measures around the animal shelter**
 - Remove stagnant water sources to minimize mosquito breeding areas

Hand Washing and Hygiene

Hand washing is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of disease. Alcohol-based hand gels can be effective when hands are not visibly dirty; these gels do not inactivate several common shelter pathogens.

■ Wash your hands often!!

- BEFORE—preparing or eating food; having contact with young animals
- AFTER—contact with animals; cleaning pet waste or cages; using the restroom; blowing your nose

■ Avoid direct contact with animal feces

- Wear gloves when cleaning animal cages, areas with animal waste or litter boxes
- Keep litter boxes away from eating areas
- Do not use high pressure hoses to remove animal waste from runs or cages as this can aerosolize fecal material and increase the risk of environmental contamination

■ Clean and disinfect areas accessed by pets

- Change cat litter boxes daily; disinfect once a month or use disposable litter trays which are thrown away when heavily soiled or after the cat leaves the shelter
- Use a 1:32 dilution of bleach in all shelter laundry
- Dispose of any laundry contaminated with feces from likely panleukopenia-infected cats or parvovirus-infected dogs
- Launder all personal clothing, either at the shelter or at home, using bleach

Cleaning and Disinfection

Proper cleaning and disinfection procedures can help minimize disease pathogens in the environment. Two of the most important and overlooked steps are the removal of dirt and organic debris before disinfecting and allowing the proper contact time for the disinfectant to work. Gloves should be worn when cleaning any potentially contaminated surfaces in the shelter. Disinfectant selection will depend on the suspected pathogen, surface to be cleaned as well as the species of animals present in the shelter and their relative susceptibility to toxicity. Air filters and vents in the shelter should also be cleaned on a regular basis.

For More Information

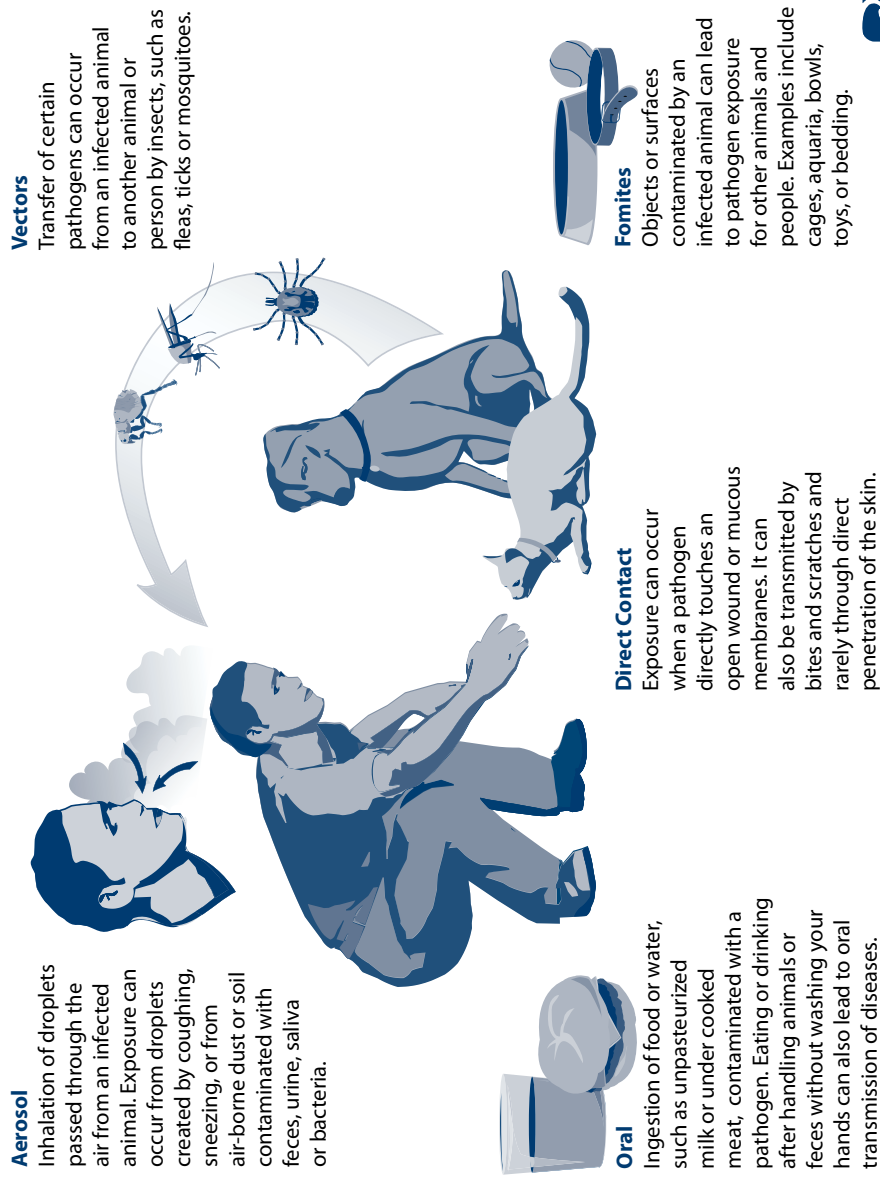
Disinfection 101. Center for Food Security and Public Health. Available at: <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/BRM/resources/Disinfectants/Disinfection101Feb2005.pdf>

Cleaning and disinfecting in shelters information sheet. University of California - Davis, Koret Shelter Medicine Program. Available at: http://www.sheltermedicine.com/portal/is_cleaning.shtml#top3

TRANSMISSION ROUTES OF ZOONOTIC DISEASES FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

The Center for Food Security and Public Health

TRANSMISSION ROUTES OF ZOONOTIC DISEASES OF COMPANION ANIMALS



© 2013 Printable version available at www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Handouts










Graphic created by Clint May, CFSPH

SELECT ZOONOTIC DISEASES OF COMPANION ANIMALS

The Center for Food Security and Public Health

Select Zoonotic Diseases of Companion Animals








Human Impact	 Person-to-Person	● = Potential System Affected								
	 Vector-Transmitted		Septicemia	Respiratory	Intestinal	Cutaneous	Ocular	Neurological	Incubation Period	Prominent Clinical Signs and Symptoms
Disease		Routes of Transmission								
BACTERIA										
Campylobacteriosis <i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> , <i>C. fetus</i> , <i>C. coli</i>		ingestion (contaminated food, fecal-oral)			●				1-10 days	Diarrhea with or without blood; fever; nausea; vomiting; abdominal pain; headache; muscle pain
Canine Brucellosis <i>Brucella canis</i>		direct contact (infected animal tissue); ingestion; fomites	●					●	2 weeks to 3 months	Asymptomatic; flu-like signs (fever, chills, headache, malaise, aches); night sweats. chronic: arthritis, chronic fatigue, orchitis
Cat Scratch Fever <i>Bartonella henselae</i>		direct contact (scratch or bite of cat)				●			3-20 days	Self-limiting; mild to severe skin rash at site of inoculation; lymphadenopathy; fever; malaise; fatigue; complications or atypical signs for 5-16% of cases
Ehrlichiosis <i>Ehrlichia</i> , <i>Neorickettsia</i> , <i>Anaplasma</i>		ticks		●	●	●	●	●	7-10 days	Headache; fever; chills; myalgia; vomiting; diarrhea; conjunctivitis; cough; confusion; children may develop a rash; severe in immunosuppressed patients
Leptospirosis <i>Leptospira species</i>		ingestion (contaminated water); inhalation; direct contact (urine)		●			●	●	7-12 days	Biphasic illness; fever; headache; chills; severe leg myalgia; conjunctival injection; jaundice; aseptic meningitis; cough; dyspnea; acute renal failure; abortion
Lyme Disease <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>		ticks				●			7-14 days	"Bull's-eye" rash with central clearing; malaise; fatigue; fever; headache; stiff neck; myalgia; arthralgia; lymphadenopathy; chronic recurring arthritis
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>		direct contact, fomites, aerosol	●			●			variable; 4-10 days	Skin and soft tissue infection - impetigo, folliculitis, furunculosis, cellulitis, abscesses; invasive infection - pneumonia, endocarditis, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, meningitis, and septicemia
Mycobacteriosis <i>Mycobacterium marinum</i>		direct contact				●			2-4 weeks	Papules (single or cluster) develop into granulomas, abscesses or ulcers; spreads along line of lymphatics or invade deeper tissues
Plague <i>Yersinia pestis</i>	 	direct contact (infected animal); fleas; inhalation	●	●					1-6 days	Flu-like signs; enlarged tender lymph nodes – "buboes"; rapid pneumonia; respiratory failure; toxemia; shock; death
Psittacosis <i>Chlamydoiphila psittaci</i>		inhalation (infected bird dander, droppings, secretions)		●		●		●	7-28 days	Flu-like signs; rash; extensive pneumonia; endocarditis; myocarditis; encephalitis
Rat Bite Fever <i>Streptobacillus moniliformis</i> <i>Spirillum minus</i>		direct contact (bite or scratch), aerosol, ingestion	●			●				polyarthritis, endocarditis, hepatitis, nephritis, meningitis, pneumonia, sepsis, focal organ abscesses; death if untreated
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever <i>Rickettsia rickettsii</i>		ticks			●	●	●	●	2-14 days	Fever; chills; malaise; headache; myalgia; vomiting; diarrhea; edema of the face or extremities; conjunctivitis; non-pruritic macular rash, may involve palms of hands or soles of feet; coma
Salmonellosis <i>Salmonella species</i>		ingestion (fecal-oral)	●		●			●	12 hours to 18 days	Acute enterocolitis; headache; abdominal pain; fever; diarrhea; nausea; septicemia; meningitis. May be severe in the very young, elderly, or immunosuppressed
Tularemia <i>Francisella tularensis</i>		arthropods (ticks, deer flies, mosquitoes); direct contact; inhalation; ingestion	●	●	●	●	●		1-14 days	Flu-like signs; exhaustion; ulcerative lesion; enlarged painful lymph nodes; painful purulent conjunctivitis; abdominal pain; diarrhea; vomiting; chest pain; respiratory distress; pneumonia; sepsis; death

Note: The information provided in this chart should not take the place of advice provided by a physician or veterinarian.

© 2013

Technical disease information is available at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu>.

Select Zoonotic Diseases of Companion Animals, continued

Human Impact	Person-to-Person	Routes of Transmission	● = Potential System Affected						Incubation Period	Prominent Clinical Signs and Symptoms	
	Vector-Transmitted		Septicemia	Respiratory	Intestinal	Cutaneous	Ocular	Neurological			
Disease											
FUNGI											
Cryptococcosis <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>		inhalation (infected pigeon droppings)		●				●	unknown	Most asymptomatic; fever; malaise; cough; chest pain; dyspnea; headache; encephalitis in immunosuppressed patients; death	
Dermatophytosis <i>Microsporum species, Trichophyton species</i>		direct contact (infected animal)					●		7-14 days	"Ringworm", raised, inflamed, pruritic, circular lesion with central clearing; alopecia; thick, discolored nails; may disseminate in immunosuppressed patients	
Sporotrichosis <i>Sporothrix schenckii</i>		Direct contact (cat, plant material); inhalation		●			●		3-12 weeks	Nodule or pustule at inoculation site; progresses to slow-healing ulcerations; followed by infection of lymphatic vessels; pulmonary and disseminated form possible but rare	
PARASITES											
Acariasis (Mange) <i>Numerous species of mites</i>		direct contact (infected animal)					●		1-4 days	Severe pruritus on arms, chest, abdomen, thighs; macules, papules, pustules; possible severe painful dermatitis with allergic reactions and chronic lesions	
Baylisascariasis <i>Baylisascaris procyonis</i>		ingestion (fecal-oral)		●				●	7-30 days	Symptoms vary with number and location of larvae; fever; nausea; lethargy; hepatomegaly; pneumonitis; neurological signs; brain damage; blindness; death	
Chagas Disease <i>Trypanosoma cruzi</i>		vector - Triatome insects ("kissing bugs"); blood transfusion	●						5-14 days	Asymptomatic; flu-like signs (fever, headache, body and joint pain), lymphadenopathy, edema of face and/or extremities; chronic infection leads to heart failure; congenital infections	
Echinococcosis <i>Echinococcus granulosus, E. multilocularis</i>		ingestion (fecal-oral)		●	●			●	months to years	Asymptomatic; signs associated with mass lesion; liver and lungs most common; abdominal pain; vomiting; jaundice; liver failure; cough; chest pain; blindness; seizures	
Larva Migrans (cutaneous) <i>Ancylostoma species</i>		direct contact (larvae)					●		7-14 days	Pruritus; winding threadlike cutaneous lesion with erythema and swelling	
Larva Migrans (visceral, ocular) <i>Toxocara species</i>		ingestion (fecal-oral)		●	●			●	weeks to months	Fever; cough; hepatomegaly; pneumonia; ocular invasion; vomiting; weakness; anorexia; arthralgia; myalgia; lymphadenopathy	
Leishmaniasis <i>Leishmania species</i>		sand flies					●		7 days to years	Cutaneous: papule; ulcer; may be chronic; Visceral: prolonged undulant fever; splenomegaly; hepatomegaly; fatal if untreated	
Toxoplasmosis <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>		ingestion (fecal-oral, under cooked meat)						●	5-23 days	Flu-like signs; fetal death; congenital defects (hydrocephaly, microcephaly); severe in immunocompromised patients; encephalitis	
Trichuriasis <i>Trichuris suis, T. trichiura, T. vulpis</i>		ingestion (fecal-oral)				●			variable	Asymptomatic; chronic diarrhea; abdominal pain; nausea; vomiting; flatulence; headache; weight loss; anemia; rectal prolapse in children	
VIRUSES											
Influenza <i>Influenzavirus</i>		inhalation; direct contact (nasal secretions)		●	●				1-4 days	Fever; chills; anorexia; headache; myalgia; weakness; sneezing; rhinitis; sore throat; cough; pneumonia; nausea, vomiting, otitis media in children; death	
Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis <i>Arenavirus</i>		aerosol, direct contact (abraded skin or mucous membranes); fomites							5-21 days	Asymptomatic; flu-like illness (fever, fatigue, headache, sore throat, body aches); meningitis, abortions, fetal deformities	
Monkeypox <i>Orthopoxvirus</i>		direct contact (bites, body tissues), aerosols,					●		7-17 days	Flu-like signs (fever, chills, headache, sore throat, body aches); swollen lymph nodes; skin lesions (vesicles and pustules)	
Rabies <i>Lyssavirus</i>		direct contact; organ transplant						●	1-3 months	Headache; fever; malaise; abnormal behavior; paresis or paralysis; difficulty swallowing; delirium; convulsions; death	

Note: The information provided in this chart should not take the place of advice provided by a physician or veterinarian.

© 2013

Technical disease information is available at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu>.

Select Zoonotic Diseases of Companion Animals



Animal Impact		● = Species with Zoonotic Potential							Incubation Period	Prominent Clinical Signs
Disease	Dogs	Cats	Birds	Ferrets	Rabbits	Rodents	Other			
BACTERIA										
Campylobacteriosis <i>Campylobacter jejuni</i> , <i>C. fetus</i> , <i>C. coli</i>	●	●	●	●		●	cattle, goats, mink, pigs non-human primates, sheep	3-25 days	Mucoid, watery, or blood-flecked diarrhea in many species; Cattle, Sheep, Goats: abortion; Hamsters: "wet tail"; may be fatal in newly hatched chicks; asymptomatic carriers common	
Canine Brucellosis <i>Brucella canis</i>	●								Abortions; stillborn or weak newborns; retained placentas; placentitis; orchitis; epididymitis; arthritis; lameness	
Cat Scratch Fever <i>Bartonella henselae</i>		●					bobcats, cheetahs, cougars, panthers	2-16 days	No natural occurring disease reported; research studies have reported fever; lethargy; anorexia; myalgia; lymphadenopathy; transient behavioral and neurological dysfunction	
Ehrlichiosis <i>Ehrlichia</i> , <i>Neorickettsia</i> , <i>Anaplasma</i>	●					●	cattle, sheep, horses, llamas, foxes, coyotes, non-human primates, wild ruminants	1-20 days	Dogs, Horses: fever; lethargy; anorexia; petechiae; lameness; edema in hind legs; Dogs: may develop bleeding disorders; Cattle, Sheep: abortions	
Leptospirosis <i>Leptospira</i> species	●					●	cattle, goats, horses, pigs, , sea lions, seals, sheep	4-12 days	Cattle, Goats, Pigs Sheep: abortions; decreased fertility; Calves, Piglets: fever; diarrhea; meningitis; Dogs: variable; hemorrhagic syndromes; kidney disease; Horses: ocular lesions	
Lyme Disease <i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	●					●	deer, horses, opossums, raccoons	2-5 months	Dogs: lameness; arthritis; Horses: lameness; arthritis; encephalitis; uveitis; dermatitis; edema of the limbs; abortion	
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	●	●	●		●	●	pigs, cattle, sheep, turtles	variable	Asymptomatic; skin and wound infections (abscesses, dermatitis, pyoderma, fistulas); pneumonia, rhinitis, sinusitis, otitis, septic arthritis, osteomyelitis, urinary tract infections	
Mycobacteriosis <i>Mycobacterium marinum</i>							All species of fish, some reptiles	variable (usually years)	Asymptomatic; anorexia, emaciation, lethargy; nodular skin lesions, ulcerations, hemorrhages; exophthalmos (bulging eyes), abdominal distention, skeletal deformities	
Plague <i>Yersinia pestis</i>	●	●				●	prairie dogs, rock and ground squirrels	1-6 days	High fever; extremely swollen lymph nodes – "buboes"; severe pneumonia; septicemia	
Psittacosis <i>Chlamydomphila psittaci</i>			●			●	love birds, parakeets, parrots	3-10 days	Nasal and ocular discharges; conjunctivitis; yellow-green droppings; inactivity; ruffled feathers; inappetence; weight loss	
Rat Bite Fever <i>Streptobacillus moniliformis</i> <i>Spirillum minus</i>	●	●		●		●	carnivores that eat rodents		Asymptomatic; arthritis, abscesses, septicemia; conjunctivitis, photophobia, cyanosis,	
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever <i>Rickettsia rickettsii</i>	●				●	●	opossums, rabbits, rodents	2-14 days	Fever; anorexia; depression; lymphadenopathy; dyspnea; diarrhea; vomiting; joint or muscle pain; edema of the face or extremities; petechiae of oral or ocular membranes; ataxia; paraparesis; seizures; renal failure; coma	
Salmonellosis <i>Salmonella</i> species	●	●	●			●	reptiles (turtles, lizards, snakes); amphibians (frogs); hedgehogs; livestock species (poultry, horses, cattle)	variable	Clinical disease uncommon; may develop septicemia; anorexia; listlessness; osteomyelitis; osteoarthritis; subcutaneous abscesses; death	
Tularemia <i>Francisella tularensis</i>	●	●			●	●	aquatic animals, horses, pigs, sheep	1-10 days	Sudden high fever with lethargy and anorexia; stiffness; reduced mobility; tachycardia; tachypnea; prostration and death; military white necrotic foci of liver, spleen or lymph node	

Select Zoonotic Diseases of Companion Animals, continued

Animal Impact		● = Species with Zoonotic Potential						Incubation Period	Prominent Clinical Signs	
Disease		Dogs	Cats	Birds	Ferrets	Rabbits	Rodents			Other
FUNGUS										
Cryptococcosis <i>Cryptococcus neoformans</i>	●	●		●			●	cattle, sheep, goats, horses, llamas, foxes, mink, non-human primates	unknown	Cats: chronic rhinitis; sinusitis; lymphadenopathy; non-pruritic nodules on face; CNS disease; ocular lesions; osteomyelitis; Cattle, Sheep, Goats: mastitis; Dogs: neurologic disease; Horses: obstructive growths in the nasal cavity
Dermatophytosis <i>Microsporum</i> species, <i>Trichophyton</i> species	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	cattle, goats, horses, pigs, sheep	2-4 weeks	Young animals most susceptible; adults may be asymptomatic; small circular areas of alopecia; flaky skin; most species non-pruritic; Pigs: wrinkled lesion with thin brown, easily removed scab
Sporotrichosis <i>Sporothrix schenckii</i>	●	●						horses, donkeys, mules	1 month	Cutaneous form most common; disseminated form rare; Horses, Cats: nodules develop into slow-healing ulcers; suppurative lymphadenitis; Dogs: nodules may or may not be ulcerated
PARASITES										
Acariasis (Mange) <i>Numerous species of mites</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	bats, cattle, felids, fox, goats, horses, pigs, sheep, raccoons	10-60 days	Pruritic; secondary pyoderma; depression; anorexia; chronic infection may lead to hyperkeratotic lesions; fatal infestations may be seen in wild animals; Ferrets: pododermatitis; self-mutilation
Baylisascariasis <i>Baylisascaris procyonis</i>	●		●			●	●	raccoons, kinkajous *Birds highly susceptible, but do not transmit to people	10-20 days	Dogs, Raccoons: usually asymptomatic; Rodents, Rabbits: neurological signs; circling; torticollis; ataxia; head tremors; progressive weakness; dysphagia; death
Chagas Disease <i>Trypanosomiasis</i>	●	●				●	●	pigs, goats, marsupials, bats, opossums, xenarthra (anteaters, armadillos), non-human primates	5-42 days	Fever, anorexia, lethargy, lymphadenopathy, ascites, palpebral edema, heart dysfunction, sudden death.
Echinococcosis (hydatid disease) <i>Echinococcus granulosus</i> , <i>E. multilocularis</i>	●	●					●	cattle, sheep, goats, horses, pigs, non-human primates	unknown	Carnivores: asymptomatic; incidental finding of cysts at necropsy; Herbivores: can affect liver, abdominal cavity; ascites; hepatomegaly; dyspnea; diarrhea; vomiting; weight loss; Rodents: fatal within weeks
Hookworms <i>Ancylostoma</i> species		●	●						7-20 days	Disease will vary with parasite burden and age of the animal; severe in puppies; diarrhea; anorexia; emaciation; weakness; poor hair coat; anemia; interdigital dermatitis, death
Leishmaniasis <i>Leishmania</i> species	●	●					●	canids, horses, marsupials, non-human primates	3 months to years	Cats, Horses: cutaneous form; non-pruritic exfoliative dermatitis around eyes, ears; Dogs: Foxhounds most commonly affected; cutaneous lesions; fever; anemia; lymphadenopathy; weight loss; anorexia; ocular lesions; splenomegaly
Roundworms <i>Toxocara</i> species	●	●							30 days	Severe in puppies and kittens; lack of growth; loss of condition; "potbellied"; parasites in vomit and feces; pneumonia; diarrhea
Toxoplasmosis <i>Toxoplasma gondii</i>		●				●	●	goats, horses, non-human primates, pigs, sheep	unknown	Most infections asymptomatic; Goats, Sheep, Pigs: abortions; stillbirths; Lambs: weak; high mortality rate; Cats: lethargy; persistent fever; anorexia; incoordination; paralysis; retinal detachment; death; Dogs: most asymptomatic
Trichuriasis <i>Trichuris suis</i> , <i>T. trichiura</i> , <i>T. vulpis</i>	●							non-human primates, pigs	10-12 days	Most cases asymptomatic; mucoid or hemorrhagic diarrhea; weight loss; unthriftiness; anemia; death may occur in piglets
VIRUSES										
Influenza <i>Influenzavirus</i>	●	●	●	●				pigs, horses	1-7 days	Fever, respiratory illness (cough; labored breathing; nasal discharge; lethargy, inappetence)
Lymphocytic Choriomeningitis <i>Arenavirus</i>							●	wild mice, rats, hamsters, non-human primates	5-6 days	Asymptomatic to acute death; varies with animal's resistance and age at infection
Monkeypox <i>Orthopoxvirus</i>							●	non-human primates	4-12 days	Self-limiting rash and cutaneous lesions (papules, pustules, vesicles, ulcerations), fever, respiratory signs (cough, nasal discharge), lymphadenopathy
Rabies <i>Lyssavirus</i>	●	●		●	●	●	●	any mammal	10 days to 6 months	Restlessness; anorexia or increased appetite; vomiting; fever; ataxia; incoordination; ascending paralysis; increased aggression; death

Note: The information provided in this chart should not take the place of advice provided by a physician or veterinarian. © 2013

Technical disease information is available at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu>.



Community
Veterinary
Outreach

© Community Veterinary Outreach 2021.

The material presented in this document is the intellectual property of Community Veterinary Outreach. The contents may not be used, copied, reproduced, distributed, displayed, licensed or otherwise used for any other purposes without the prior written consent of Community Veterinary Outreach.