

Kennel Hygiene and Disinfection to prevent illness

Ensuring optimal health and performance



Maintaining clean and hygienic kennels is an essential task. Dirty and soiled living areas promote disease and parasite infestation, which can quickly lead to sick greyhounds. All greyhounds must have their kennel areas, yards and runs cleaned at least once a day. (GRV are thanked for providing part of this resource)

What does daily cleaning include?

- Picking up any faeces and removing uneaten food, chewed bedding, toys etc;
- Washing away urine and any dirt or other matter stuck to floors or walls or wire with a high-pressure hose or scrubbing with a broom and water before rinsing with a hose;
- Washing the kennel areas with hospital grade disinfectant or a detergent/disinfectant combination diluted according to the label directions in warm or hot water.



- The kennel areas must be scrubbed (using an old stiff bristled broom) before being thoroughly rinsed with clean water. A household disinfectant is a good alternative for smaller kennels. (Avoid pine-based detergents if there are cats on the property as these detergents can be toxic to cats);
- Cleaning food and water containers and ensuring water containers contain clean water at all times;
- Removing soiled bedding and enrichment items (toys) and replacing with clean dry bedding and clean enrichment items;
- Cleaning all items used for feeding (including food preparation areas and utensils) at the end of each feeding time.

What should weekly cleaning include?

- All food bowls, utensils, water containers and enrichment toys need to be disinfected. Using a dishwasher at minimum temperature of 65°C + dishwasher detergent (according to the instructions) is a good way of disinfecting plastics and metals;
- Soiled bedding, soft enrichment toys, and dog rugs/blankets should be washed in a washing machine at 65°C with washing detergent, especially if you have a greyhound who has been unwell;
- Disinfect sleeping areas, kennel runs, and other high traffic areas to prevent illness and disease.
- Particular attention should be paid to cleaning and disinfecting kennels when a greyhound moves kennels. To reduce the frequency of disinfection, carers should allocate fixed kennels to each greyhound and only move them if there is a specific reason or need.

TIPS FOR DISINFECTION:

- A veterinarian will be able to advise on a suitable disinfectant, but generally any supermarket disinfectant labelled as hospital grade is sufficient for regular disinfection.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for any disinfectant or detergent product to avoid accidental poisoning or injury from cleaning residue.
- Make sure the greyhounds are removed from an area before disinfection begins and are not returned until the kennel area is dry, clean and bedding has been replaced. If fumes from disinfecting are strong, you may need to increase ventilation and wait until the fumes dissipate before returning greyhounds to kennels.



- When disinfecting during and after an outbreak of a disease (kennel cough or gastroenteritis), you may need a stronger or a specific disinfection solution. Speak to your veterinarian for advice. You will also need to disinfect daily to reduce the spread of the disease. For more information on Biosecurity click [here](#)
- If your facility does not maintain a permanent kennel for each greyhound, you may want to consider changing the housing management. Regular kennel locations can help greyhounds settle better, feel more secure, and reduce the risk of disease spread.

Example Disease Prevention – General Cleaning Protocol:

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent
- **Cleaning schedule:** Once daily
- **Cleaning protocol:**
 1. All greyhounds removed from kennels.
 2. Remove beds, bedding, toys and food bowls.
 3. Clean faeces and other debris from pens using a pooper scooper and disposed of in an appropriate waste bin.
 4. Thoroughly hose out each pen.
 5. Dilute detergent to the highest concentration for very dirty surfaces and evenly splash onto the floor of each individual kennel and into the walkway. Leave solution to soak for a minimum of 5 minutes. Wash detergent completely away with water – preferably a high-pressure washer.
 6. Following washing, empty, scrub and refill water buckets with clean water.
 7. Scrape kennels and walkways to remove excess water.
 8. Any beds or bedding that are dirty or soiled are removed and immediately replaced with clean bedding

Kennel Mats

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent and bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** weekly or more often if soiled
- **Cleaning protocol:**
 1. Dilute household detergent to highest concentration and pour on to the mat. Leave for 5-10 minutes. Ensure that the whole mat has been exposed to the sanitiser.
 2. Rinse/pressure wash both sides of the mat and hang over the fence to air dry.



Bedding and soft furnishings (e.g. mats, blankets) + Blankets, toys, leads, and material collars

- **Cleaning agent:** Laundry Powder and bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** weekly and when soiled (urine, faeces, mud, vomit, wet)
- **Cleaning protocol:**
 1. Place soiled blankets in the washing machine and fill with half a cup of laundry powder and bleach as per instructions. Wash in hot water.
 2. Once washed, place the blanket in the dryer.

Kennel equipment (e.g. feed and water bowls, muzzles, leads) + Feed bowls

- **Cleaning agent:** Liquid dishwashing detergent
- **Cleaning schedule:** once a day after feeding or whenever the bowl is used
- **Cleaning protocol:**
 1. Wash the bowl in a sink of diluted detergent and warm water.
 2. Place bowls on a drying rack and let them air dry.

Water bowls

- **Cleaning agent:** detergent, scrubbed using sponge
- **Cleaning schedule:** once a day and when dirty
- **Cleaning protocol:**
 1. Empty dirty water out.
 2. Scrub inside the water bowls/containers with a brush to remove any build-up of grime on the bottom or sides.
 3. Refill with fresh water from the hose or tap.

Muzzles

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent
- **Cleaning schedule:** after use
- **Cleaning protocol:**



1. Dilute household detergent to highest concentration in a bucket with warm water.
2. Place the muzzles in the sink/bucket and scrub with a cleaning cloth to remove any dirt, grime etc.
3. Let the muzzles soak for approximately 10-20 minutes.
4. Remove and hang to drip dry, then store away in the maintenance shed.

Pooper Scoopers

- **Cleaning agent:** Kennel sanitiser or bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** after use
- **Cleaning protocol:**
 1. Leave in a pre-prepared bucket of diluted sanitiser solution/bleach after use.
 2. New water and sanitiser solution will be changed every day.

Transport vehicles and trailers

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent and bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** weekly depending on level of use.
- **Cleaning protocol:**

Trailers:

1. Remove all mats and bedding.
2. Dilute detergent in a bucket of hot water.
3. Using a soft wet cloth, wipe the inside of the trailer bay (floor, walls and wire) and scrub off any dried dirt, faeces, mud etc.
4. In the event the kennel is heavily soiled then the pressure washer may need to be used to clean the trailer initially.
5. Using a cloth with detergent solution, wipe/scrub outside of trailer paying attention to the doors, handles, outside walls, front and back panels and roof.
6. Hose the inside and outside of the trailer.
7. Let the trailer air dry or wipe dry with a towel.
8. Place clean fresh mats into cleaned bays ready for next use.



Vans/Cars:

1. Remove all mats and bedding.
2. Dilute detergent in a bucket of hot water.
3. Using a soft wet cloth, wipe the inside of the van bay (floor, walls and wire) and scrub off any dried dirt, faeces, mud etc.
4. Let the van air dry or wipe dry with a towel.
5. Place clean fresh mats and bedding ready for next use.

Passenger part of Van/Cars:

1. Remove all mats
2. Using a soft wet cloth, wipe the inside of the compartment
3. Dilute detergent in a spray bottle with hot water and spray within the van
4. Let the area air dry or wipe dry with a towel