



Kennel Bio-Security

United All Breed Registry 888-908-9299

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A bacteria is more likely to put you out of business than a PETA activist. Joe Grissom of Royal Canin gave a good run-down at our statewide pet breeder seminars this spring on how to keep things clean. It's mostly common sense, a little bit science and a whole lot of 'elbow grease.' Let's take a quick look at what you can do to prevent contagious disease from destroying your business.



Clean All the Time

1. First, keep up with a thorough and effective **cleaning program daily**, rather than relying on a “deep” cleaning only once or twice a year. Write out your list of what needs to be done every day, week, and month.
2. Include any **vehicles and crates** used to transport animals in your cleaning program.
3. **Remove all dogs** from the area being cleaned.
4. **Remove bedding**, temporary partitions, cages, tables, utensils, muzzles, equipment and anything that blocks access to all surfaces. If you have a disease outbreak, remove absolutely every object and try using a small handheld steam cleaner on them.
5. **Thoroughly scrub with a strong detergent** to remove all dirt, grime, grease, hair, etc. A putty knife and steel wool are helpful at this step. You cannot disinfect a surface that has ANY organic matter left on it. Do the same on all items removed in step 4. Muzzles, sweaters, bedding etc. should be machine washed at 140°.
6. **Steam clean everything and/or apply a disinfectant.** *Power-washing is no longer recommended* because it aerosolizes the bacteria that was on the surface, spreading it all over the kennel (and into your lungs). Some notes on disinfectants: bleach is not very effective AND it



becomes toxic when in contact with the ammonia in urine. Be careful to mix your disinfectant product properly... there are usually different dilution instructions for hard water, or cold water. While you are reading those disinfectant instructions, notice how long it has to remain on the surface to be effective; most say 10 minutes. Let it work before you let it dry! Also, be sure it says on your disinfectant bottle that it kills Parvovirus.

7. **Allow to dry.** “If it isn’t dry, it isn’t clean.” If your mom didn’t say that, she should have.

8. **Replace all the removable items** after they have been disinfected and are dry. Feed bowls warrant a second round of disinfectant and drying.

9. **Be thoughtful** about where the water used for this cleaning is discharged and be certain that animals and people cannot access it.

Clean People, Too

- **Hands** should be washed before handling dogs or their feeding utensils. Washing with soap will suspend micro-organisms and allows them to be rinsed off; washing with an anti-microbial product kills or inhibits the growth of bacteria. Disposable gloves should be worn anytime you might contact feces, urine, saliva, vaginal or seminal fluid from a new, or ill, or possibly ill animal, and while assisting all whelping dams.

- **Protective clothing** is a physical barrier to infection which can be easily replaced. Coveralls and rubber boots are the simplest. Dirty coveralls can be washed at 140° after removing any obvious soiling. Special attention should be paid to the grips on the boot soles where organic matter can be trapped; a small brush will help here. Some kennels provide the staff with slip-on rubber clogs at the entry; “street” shoes are NOT allowed in the kennel buildings. An easy option is disposable shoe covers.

- ALL visitors to your kennel or kennel yard should be required to wear disposable **shoe covers** and wash their hands before entering.

Isolate New Animals

This is the big one that too many kennels are ignoring. We don’t have enough isolation areas and we don’t isolate new animals long enough. Whole kennels have been wiped out this year by Brucellosis because they didn’t isolate adequately when buying new animals. Brucellosis

does not show up in a blood test until *5-8 weeks* after infection. An isolation area is a SEPARATE building, with its own doors and airspace. The number of staff members entering that area should be kept to a minimum. Ideally, the ones that care for those animals do not also work in the main kennel. Upon entering the isolation area, outerwear should be removed, shoe covers put on and hands washed (also upon leaving). Equipment should not be shared with the main kennel.

All done?

Great! Now you can put up a nifty sign to notify everyone that they are entering a special zone and be proud that you are doing your best to protect your animals and your business.

We've got you covered!

The original version of this article contained prices and links to purchase the following items:



Stop Sign for disease prevention



Disposable coveralls



Basic Steam Cleaner



Handheld Steam Cleaner (for small items)



Disposable Tyvek Boot Covers



Latex Gloves



Disposable Plastic Boot Covers



Inexpensive shoe covers