

# Introductory Course for Commercial Dog Breeders

## Part 9: Husbandry Standards



# Course Objectives

1. Describe minimum food and water requirements for dogs
2. Describe the requirements for compatible grouping of dogs
3. Explain the exercise requirement
4. Explain general housekeeping and pest control requirements
5. Describe the frequency and types of cleaning and sanitization methods for primary enclosures
6. Explain staffing and employee training requirements



# Food and Water Requirements

# Feeding

- Must feed dogs at least once a day
- Additional feedings may be needed for puppies, young dogs, dogs with health conditions
- Consult attending veterinarian
- Document in Plan of Veterinary Care

# Food

- Wholesome
- Uncontaminated
  - Rodents, insects, vermin
  - Medications, chemicals
  - Animal waste
- Palatable
- Appropriate size, consistency
- Digestible
- Nutritious

# Food Storage

- Keep area free of trash, junk, weeds, etc.
- Store food off floor, away from walls
- Prevent spoilage, contamination and vermin infestation



# Food Storage

- Open bags in leakproof containers
- tight fitting lids
- Store according to label directions
- Use within shelf life
- Keep away from toxic substances:  
medications, cleaning supplies, chemicals



# Storage of Toxic Supplies

- Some supplies used at facility may be toxic to dogs:
  - Cleaning supplies/chemicals
  - Pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides
- Storage requirements:
  - NOT stored in food preparation or storage areas
  - May store in cabinets in animal areas if regularly used
    - No animal access to cabinets
    - Substances cannot leak into animal areas

# Food Receptacles

- Reusable or disposable
- Accessible to all dogs in enclosure
- Choose location to minimize contamination
- Protect from rain and snow
- Keep clean and sanitary
- Prevent molding, caking, deterioration, wetting of food

# Reusable Food Receptacles

- Durable material
  - Metal, plastic, ceramic, concrete
  - Be cleaned and sanitized
- Replace when worn, damaged and can't be cleaned and sanitized
  - Scratched, chewed, rough surface



# Cleaning & Sanitizing

- Cleaning: removing food waste, mineral build up, excreta and other debris, usually with water and a cleaning agent (detergent)
- Sanitizing: reduces the number of microorganisms present on a cleaned surface.

# Sanitization Methods

Must use one of these three methods:

- A. Steam Cleaning OR
- B. Washing in hot (180° F water) and soap/detergent OR
- C. Remove all organic material and mineral buildup; wash with detergent and disinfectant solutions or combination detergent/disinfectant product; followed with clean water rinse

# How Often?

- At least once every 2 weeks, or more often as needed to prevent accumulation of :
  - Dirt,
  - Debris,
  - Food waste,
  - Excreta,
  - Algae,
  - Mineral deposits,
  - Disease hazards,
- Before using to feed a different dog or group of dogs

# Water

- If water not continuously available,
  - Must be offered as often as necessary for dogs' health and well-being
- Dogs' water requirements may vary due to:
  - Temperature and humidity
  - Animal's physical condition: young, old, nursing, ill, etc.
  - Discuss questions with veterinarian

# Minimum Water Requirement

- Minimum Requirement:
  - At least 2 times a day, for at least 1 hour, unless intake restricted by veterinarian

# Water Supply and Quality

- Supply:
  - Adequate, running, potable
  - Meet dogs' needs and for cleaning and husbandry
- Quality:
  - Suitable for human consumption
  - Clean
  - Non-toxic
  - Uncontaminated

# Water Receptacles

- Bowls, buckets, self waterers

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  - Disease hazards
- Before using with different dog or group of dogs



# Compatible Grouping

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Regularly observe dogs for signs of incompatible grouping:

- Overly aggressive/vicious
- Wounds: head, neck, face and legs
- Ruffled or thin hair coat, scratches or bites
- Restricted access: food or water
- Sick or weak dog in same unit as healthy dogs



# Specific Grouping Requirements

These dogs may NOT be housed together:

1. Females in heat with male dogs, except for breeding
2. Vicious or overly aggressive dogs housed separately
3. Puppies less than 4 months with adults, except dam or foster dam

## Specific Grouping Reqs. (cont'd)

4. Dogs with other animal species unless compatible
5. Isolate dogs with or suspected of having contagious disease from healthy dogs
6. No more than 12 adult nonconditioned dogs in same primary enclosure



# Exercise Requirements

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- Required by regulations:
  - Dogs over 12 weeks must have opportunity to exercise
  - Written plan approved & signed by attending veterinarian
  - Available for Inspector's review





# Cleaning and Sanitizing

# General Housekeeping

- Area around facility:
  - Clean, good repair
  - No trash, waste, weeds, etc.
- Housing Units:
  - Neat, no clutter



# Cleaning Primary Enclosures

# Definitions

## Primary Enclosure:

- A structure or device used to restrict an animal to a limited amount of space
  - Cage, run or pen



# Definitions

## Hard surfaces:

- Sealed Concrete
- Sealed Wood
- Ceramic Tile
- Stainless steel or other metal
- Glass board
- Formica



# Definitions

## Non-hard/Porous surfaces:

- Dirt
- Sand
- Gravel
- Grass



# Daily Cleaning

- Remove feces, urine, food waste from primary enclosures daily

# Animal Contact Areas

## Cleaning Animal Contact Areas:

- Daily spot clean all hard surfaces where dogs have contact
  - Sanitize at least every 2 weeks or more often if necessary
- Daily spot clean all non-hard or porous surfaces
  - Rake or spot clean frequently to ensure dogs can avoid contact with excreta
  - Replace contaminated material when raking & spot cleaning not sufficient

# Other Surfaces

- Clean and sanitize when necessary to meet husbandry standards and practices
- Remove feces, urine and food waste from pans or ground below primary enclosures as necessary to prevent accumulation, keep dogs clean and reduce pests, odors and disease risk

# Cleaning Methods: Primary Enclosures

- Steam and Water Cleaning:
  - Remove dogs from enclosure, or ensure they won't be harmed, wet, or distressed
  - Protect animals in other enclosures from water and contamination
  - Clean pans and areas under enclosures as necessary to prevent waste accumulation
  - After cleaning, remove standing water

# Sanitizing Primary Enclosures

- Clean and sanitize primary enclosures, food and water receptacles:
  - As often as needed to prevent accumulation of dirt, waste, debris, and other disease hazards: **at least once every 2 weeks**
  - Before using with different dogs

# Sanitizing Hard Surfaces

Use one of these methods:

- A. Steam Cleaning OR
- B. Washing in hot (180° F water) and soap/detergent OR
- C. Remove all organic material and mineral buildup; wash with detergent and disinfectant solutions or combination detergent/disinfectant product; followed with clean water rinse



# Sanitizing Non-hard/Porous Surfaces

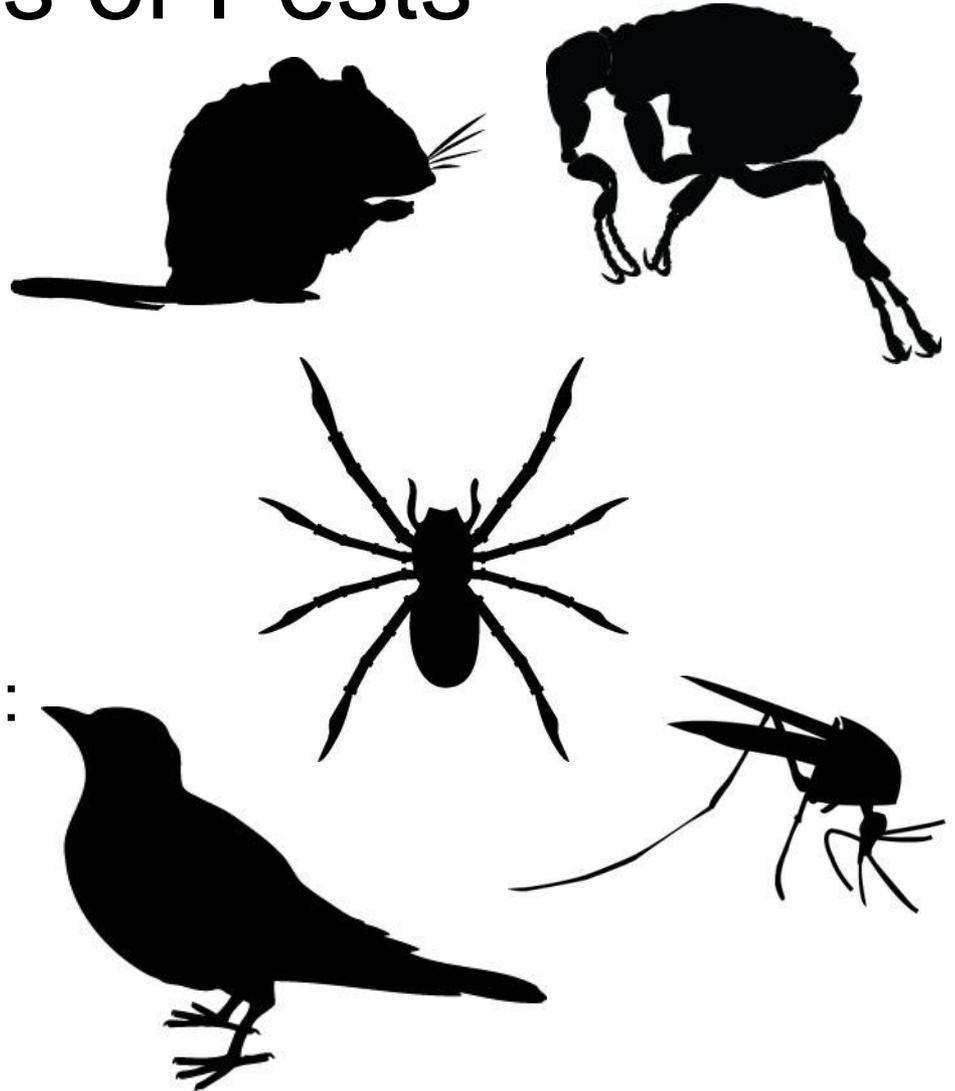
- Gravel, sand, grass, absorbent bedding
  - Remove contaminated materials as necessary
  - Direct sunlight aids in disinfection



# Pest Control

# Types of Pests

- Mammals:
  - Rats, mice, moles
- Birds:
  - Starlings, pigeons, sparrows
- Ectoparasites:
  - Fleas, ticks, mites, lice
- Arthropods (insects):
  - Flies, mosquitoes, gnats
- Arachnids:
  - Spiders, scorpions



# Pest Control Program

- Have and maintain an effective program to control:
  - Insects
  - Ectoparasites
  - Birds
  - Mammals
- Discuss insect and ectoparasite control with your veterinarian



# Signs of Pests

- Observe animals and facilities for signs of pests
- Common signs of pests:
  - Seeing the pest (rodents, insects, birds)
  - Finding Droppings (rodents, fleas, birds)
  - Other evidence (chewed surfaces, feathers, egg packets)
  - Effects on animals (itching, sores, hair loss)



Employees

# Employees are Important

- Have enough employees to carry out care and husbandry practices according to regulations.
- Must be trained and supervised

# How Many Employees?

- Depends on:
  - Number of animals and care requirements
  - Facility condition, design and construction
  - Employee responsibilities
    - How much to each employee?
    - Enough time to do everything?
    - Enough training?

# Hint

- If repeatedly out of compliance on husbandry issues, ask if there are enough people to get everything done?

# Conclusion

You should now be able to:

- Describe minimum food and water requirements for dogs
- Compatibility requirements
- Exercise plan requirement
- General housekeeping and pest control
- Cleaning and sanitization procedures
- Employee responsibilities and training

# Questions?



# Acknowledgments

This presentation was prepared by the Center for Food Security and Public Health, Iowa State University through a cooperative agreement with USDA APHIS Animal Care.

