



North Valley Animal Disaster Group Standard Operating Guidelines

Title: ISOLATION

Objective: To keep animal safe from the spread of disease

Description: An isolation area will be used only for that purpose and should be located where animals can be moved in and out without exposing healthy animals.

- Animal Shelter Lead are to assign specific individuals to care for isolated animals
 - Alternate species workers if available
 - Reports any concerns to the species Shelter Lead
- General Procedures: These will be decided on a case by case or room by room situation
 - Post clear Isolation Signage to indicate that infectious animals are housed within
 - Post Isolation Time Sheet on clipboard outside the room, use military time
 - Designate in writing on wall or door name and AR# of who is taking care of the room with date
 - Attach Animal Care Schedule on to clipboard and attach to cage
- A designated isolation area should be set up in the shelter for potentially infectious animals
 - Ideally this would be physically separated from the rest of the shelter by walls on all sides and a door, or even a separate building
 - Otherwise, an isolation area can be created using plastic or other barrier material that should go from floor to ceiling if possible
 - If an infectious respiratory disease is suspected, additional ventilation measures will need to be implemented
- Isolation signs or posters should be placed near the entrance to the isolation area
 - Only individuals with appropriate PPE should be allowed to enter
 - Appropriate PPE may range using gloves only to full gowns, mask, gloves, booties, and face shield depending on the nature of the infection. If potential for splashing of blood or body fluids is not present, routine use of gloves and hand hygiene will be sufficient
 - Check with supervisor to determine appropriate level of PPE needed
 - Ideally, volunteers (wearing appropriate PPE) taking care of animals in isolation will not be taking care of the animals in the general population

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- An animal should be moved to an isolation area as soon as possible according to shelter SOGs (i.e. must be approved by Animal Shelter Lead and shelter veterinarian prior to move) when believed to be an animal showing signs of illness
- Limiting the people who encounter infectious animals to only essential animal care personnel will help reduce disease spread
- Follow specific Isolation procedures per individual animal
- A sink for hand washing and treatment purposes is required
- Air flow with exhaust separated from other animal housing areas is mandatory
- Assure that appropriate lighting; ideally, windows or other natural light sources are available
- Maintain materials/surfaces that are easy to clean and disinfect, and items that are either disposable or easy to sanitize
- Set up Isolation areas as far from the general population and other isolation areas as possible. Make sure that these areas don't have to be traveled through to get to other areas of the shelter.
- Should be set up for the following groups of animals:
 - Expectant animals and / or newborn
 - Diarrhea, vomiting, etc.
 - Coughing, sneezing, any ocular/nasal discharge
- Use cages and kennels that prevent direct contact between animals
- Use disposable pee pads
- Use measures to reduce stress (noise abatement, species separation, etc.)
- Separate equipment and supplies used exclusively in the isolation area
 - (Scrubs, Tyvek suit, gowns/aprons, rubber boots, gloves, eyewear, disposable shoe covers); pens, clipboards, hand soap/sanitizer; paper towels; garbage bags; lidded garbage can; thermometers, face masks and other specific equipment
 - Dedicated space for storage of items needed for biosecurity, such as a treatment cart; personal protective equipment
- Entering and exiting isolation rooms
 - Before entering the isolation area, remove any outerwear and equipment (e.g., watch, cell phone, pens etc) and leave outside the isolation room
 - Gather any necessary supplies and medications before putting on PPE
 - Perform hand hygiene and then put on PPE
 - Some types of PPE have specific techniques of donning and removing and may need to be reviewed before allowing individuals to enter
 - Clean and disinfect any equipment used while caring for the pet
 - Before leaving the isolation room, remove PPE; remove booties last as stepping out of the isolation room and avoid touching the outer surface of the boots
 - Clean and disinfect non-disposable PPE. Place used disposable PPE in the trash container lined with a biohazard bag in the isolation room. Avoid contact with external portions of the door when exiting the isolation room

- Remove plastic boot covers last, avoid touching the outer surface of your shoes
 - Dip footwear in footbath prior to leaving the Isolation anteroom if you do not have plastic boot covers
 - Remove gloves prior to leaving isolation room
 - Remove any other isolation equipment
 - Large garbage can for inside room to contain all used isolation items
 - Contain all waste and dirty bowl etc. to Isolation room until disposed of properly
 - Perform hand hygiene, washing them for at least 30 seconds using antibacterial soap, then use alcohol gel
 - Disinfect any surfaces (e.g., doorknobs) that may have accidentally been contaminated when the room was exited
- Specific Procedures: These will be decided on a case by case or room by room situation

Refer to “Biosecurity and Sanitation SOG” for additional information

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