



# Preventing Disease in Facilities that House Dogs

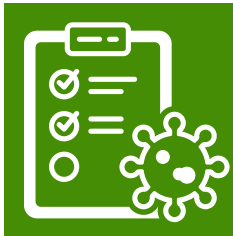
## Biosecurity Practices for Doggy Daycares, Boarding Facilities, Kennels, and Groomers

Prevent Disease Introduction into the facility by having robust Vaccination and Biosecurity Requirements

### Prevent Disease Exposure

#### 1. Ask about Health and Exclude Sick Animals

- Staff should ask about the dog's health status prior to acceptance. "How has "Pupper" been feeling lately?"
- Staff should observe the animals for signs of disease (coughing, sneezing, runny nose, vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy). Animals displaying signs of disease should not be allowed to enter the facility. These animals should be examined by a veterinarian prior to entry. Inform clients of this policy.



#### 2. Contain the Disease

- Transmission of disease occurs when an infected animal or its bodily fluids (feces, urine, fluids from coughing/sneezing, saliva, etc.) come into contact with another animal. Material contaminated by bodily fluids such as bedding, toys, a caretaker's hands, clothes, footwear, etc. pose the same risk.
- Animals that show signs of illness should be moved to an area with no access to other animals. Sick animals must be removed from the facility immediately. Have a backup plan in place in case the owner cannot pick up their animal right away. Sick animals should be examined by a veterinarian.
- Have a dedicated area to isolate an animal that becomes sick. Use dedicated equipment (bowls, toys, bedding, cleaning supplies, etc.) in the sick animal area. Clean and disinfect this area and equipment thoroughly after the animal has left the facility and before any equipment is removed from this area.

#### 3. Reduce Comingling and Cross Contamination

- Keep different groupings of animals housed separately (for example, groups based on animal size or temperament). Have dedicated areas for each group and dedicated equipment for each animal housing area.
- Employees should wash hands with soap and warm water after handling dogs and between handling different groups of animals.
- Clean and disinfect animal areas before moving different animals into that space.

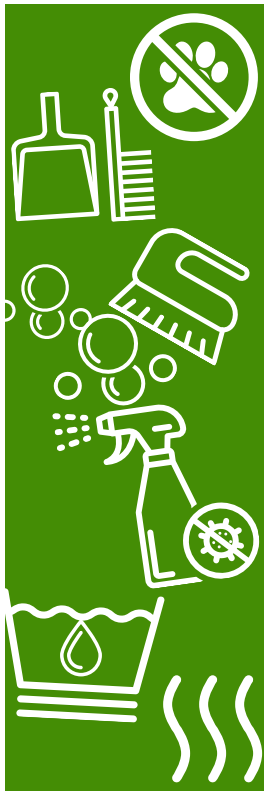
### Vaccination

- Vaccination is highly effective in preventing disease in dogs when the risk for disease exposure is increased due to comingling. Facility owners and managers should discuss recommended vaccination requirements (including frequency) with their veterinarian.
- Ensure that any dog entering the facility has a current rabies vaccine and appropriate dog license.
- Diseases of concern for dogs include: Distemper, Canine Adenovirus types 1 and 2, Parvovirus, Parainfluenza, Bordetella, Influenza H3N8, Influenza H3N2, and Leptospirosis.



## Routine Cleaning and Disinfection Prevent Disease Transmission

1. Animal housing, play areas, toys, and equipment used for feeding and watering should be cleaned daily or more often as necessary.
2. Animal waste should be cleaned up quickly, then disposed of in a way that prevents contact by other animals.
3. Supplies should be stored away from animal areas or in containers that can be easily cleaned and disinfected.
4. Dirty or dusty surfaces, unsealed wood, and scratched or rusty surfaces are difficult to clean and disinfect and can harbor disease-causing organisms. Remove cobwebs and dust accumulations. Clean soiled surfaces. Paint or seal scratched or bare wood. Repair, paint, or replace rusted metal.



### Cleaning and Disinfection Instructions

1. Remove all animals from the area to be cleaned and disinfected. Animals should be moved to cages/areas that have already been cleaned and disinfected.
2. Dry Clean: remove feces, fur, dirt, leaves, grass, etc. from the surfaces to be cleaned and disinfected.
3. Wet Clean: scrub with soap and warm water then allow to dry.
4. Disinfect: Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP) products appear to be safer and more effective than other disinfectants (such as bleach). Apply the selected disinfectant following all label instructions. Pay attention to safety precautions, surface type, contact time, dilution and storage. Do not mix different disinfectants together.
5. Rinse and allow the area to dry. Areas that stay wet are very difficult to disinfect.

Prevent the spread of disease among dogs in your care. Require vaccinations against common contagious diseases, do not allow sick animals into your facility, keep separate groups, and clean and disinfect areas and equipment daily.



**If you have questions, concerns, or need to report an outbreak of disease, please call the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Animal Health Program at 207-287-3701.**