

Cattery Cleaning

PURPOSE

This document defines the policy and procedures for cattery cleaning.

SCOPE

This policy applies to all staff and volunteers responsible for helping with cattery cleaning.

POLICY

APA! staff and volunteers will clean the cattery in accordance with the documented procedures.

BACKGROUND

Clean

- An object is clean when it is visibly free of organic material, dirt, grime, and odors.
- Cleaning is typically done with a degreasing detergent like dish soap, Formula 409, or Simple Green. For example, dishes that you would normally wash in a sink in hot, soapy water are clean.

Disinfected

- An object is disinfected when it is clean and free of invisible pathogens, spores, and bacteria.
- To be disinfected, an object must be subjected to chemical exposure such as bleach, Trifectant, or extreme heat (such as boiling). For example, dishes that you wash in warm, soapy water, then immerse in a bath of diluted bleach water for ten minutes, are disinfected.

Spot cleaning

- Studies show that shelters often over-clean, subject cats to too many harsh chemicals, and stress cats by moving them from their cages too often in order to clean (which leads to sickness). In fact, spot cleaning is just as efficient at eliminating disease, and causes less stress to the cats.
- Spot cleaning means removing all visible soiled materials from the habitat and refreshing the enclosure without removing the cat and without performing a hard deep-scrub of the entire habitat.
- At APA! spot cleaning should be done on most days and hard, deep cleaning should be done once per week, more often only if needed.

Chemical safety

- The proper ratio of bleach to water is 1:32 (1/2 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water.) Using more bleach than this is harmful to cats and to humans, and is not effective against the pathogens we seek to eliminate. Do not use more bleach than 1:32 unless instructed.
- To be disinfected, an object must be subjected to the bleach solution for ten minutes. Allow any bleached object to air dry before allowing the cat contact with it. A diluted bleach solution remains chemically effective for only 24 hours and is light sensitive. This means you should make new bleach solution every day, discarding the old mix, and try to keep it away from light.

- The proper ratio of Trifectant to water is 1:100 when using powder, or one tablet per 16 oz. spray bottle. Trifectant must sit on the surface of the object being disinfecting for 10 minutes to be effective. Trifectant remains chemically effective for seven days, meaning a new bottle of Trifectant solution should be made once per week.
- Caution should be used when using bleach or Trifectant. Take measures to keep both bleach and Trifectant out of eyes and off of skin, as well as off the cats.

PROCEDURES

Daily cleaning tasks – done without removing cat from habitat

1. Scoop litter boxes. If box is heavily soiled, clean box in hot soapy water then disinfect for ten minutes in a bleach bath. If coccidia is present or suspected, litter box should be sprayed with ammonia instead.
2. Refill food and water bowls. If dishes are soiled, clean in hot, soapy water then disinfect for ten minutes in a bleach bath.
3. Remove bedding from cage or enclosure and shake out over trash can. If bedding is soiled, take old bedding to laundry and replace with clean bedding.
4. Use a clean hand broom to sweep up all loose hair and debris in the enclosure.
5. Use hot, soapy water and paper towel to spot-clean the habitat. Pay special attention to scrub vomit, feces, nasal discharge, litter mud, etc.
6. Use a clean broom to sweep the cattery floor in entirety.
7. Clean Meet and Greet Room by scrubbing all surfaces with hot, soapy water, then disinfected by spraying with disinfectant and allowing ten minutes of contact time. Alternate disinfectant daily between bleach solution and Trifectant.
8. Wash all cleaning instruments by dunking and agitating in a bucket of hot, soapy water.
9. Disinfect all cleaning instruments after cleaning, by soaking all in a bleach bath for ten minutes. Allow all cleaning instruments to air dry.
10. Clean sink area by wiping down with a paper towel. Disinfect sink area by spraying with disinfectant.

Weekly deep cleaning tasks – done after removing cat from habitat

1. Remove cat from habitat. Place cat in a clean pet carrier for the duration of the clean.
2. Remove all bedding, toys, litterbox, and dishes from the habitat. Wash then disinfect all dishes, litterboxes, and toys.
3. Use a hand broom to sweep up all loose hairs and debris from the habitat.
4. Using hot, soapy water or a detergent, and a clean wash rag, scrub out the entire enclosure. Be sure to wash all surfaces, including both sides of the cage door, tops and bottoms of shelves, walls, floors, corners, latches, handles, etc. All surfaces must be visibly free of any/all organic material, dirt, grime, etc.
5. Once the enclosure is dry from cleaning, saturate the surfaces with disinfectant. This includes cage doors, tops and bottoms of shelves, walls, floors, etc. Alternate disinfectants from week to week, using bleach one week and Trifectant the next. Allow disinfectant to remain on the surfaces for ten minutes.
6. Once the disinfectant is dry, put clean and disinfected bedding, dishes, and a litterbox into the enclosure.
7. Use a clean broom to sweep all floors, paying special attention to corners, nooks, enclosure-door tracks, and anywhere else debris collects.
8. Mop all areas of cattery using a clean mop and bleach water at a ratio of 1:32.
9. Return cats to the clean, disinfected, and dry habitats. Clean and disinfect the carriers the cats were held in, by wiping them out with hot, soapy water, then spraying with disinfectant and allow to air dry. Put carriers away.
10. Wash all cleaning instruments by dunking and agitating in a bucket of hot, soapy water.
11. Disinfect all cleaning instruments after cleaning, by soaking all in a bleach bath for ten minutes. Allow all cleaning instruments to air dry.

Deep Cleaning Tasks

Monday

Deep clean enclosure **1**:

Remove all cats and place in clean carriers. Remove all litter boxes, bedding, food bowls, and toys. Wash all enclosure surfaces with hot, soapy water including window sill, shelves, and floors. Using a nylon scrub brush and hot, soapy water, scrub all wire on enclosure doors and ceiling. Spray all surfaces with disinfectant, including wire doors and ceiling, and allow ten minutes of contact time. Rotate disinfectants week to week from bleach to Trifectant. Clean and disinfect all litter boxes and dishes. Replace boxes, dishes, and bedding with clean items. When enclosure is dry, return cats to the habitat then clean and disinfect the carriers the cats were in.

Reception Area:

Remove all clutter and place it where it belongs or throw it out. With hot, soapy water, wipe down all non-electronic surfaces in the reception area including filing cabinet, shelf, microwave, refrigerator, and table. Disinfect these surfaces by spraying with disinfectant and allow to air dry. With a damp cloth, dust off all electronic surfaces including printer and laptop. Make sure floor is clean and free of all debris.

Tuesday

Deep clean enclosure **2**:

Follow the above enclosure cleaning instructions.

Condos:

Wash the tops of the **STAINLESS** cage enclosures. Use hot, soapy water and ensure no dust, dirt, or debris remains. Disinfect by spraying the areas with disinfectant and allowing to air dry.

Wednesday

Deep clean enclosure **3**:

Follow the above enclosure cleaning instructions.

Condos:

Wash the tops of the **BLUE BOX** cage enclosures. Use hot, soapy water and ensure no dust, dirt, or debris remains. Disinfect by spraying the areas with disinfectant and allowing to air dry.

Thursday

Deep clean enclosure **4**:

Follow the above enclosure cleaning instructions.

Storage cabinet by sink:

Remove everything from storage rack. Wash all shelves with hot, soapy water. Disinfect by spraying rack all over with disinfectant and allow to air dry. When dry, restock and organize items on the shelf into a neat and orderly fashion.

Friday

Deep clean enclosure **5**:

Follow the above enclosure cleaning instructions.

Storage Room:

Clean and organize storage room by throwing out any unneeded items, put items in their designated storage areas or on shelves, clear the floor. Sweep the storage room floor. Wash the storage room floor with clean mop and bleach solution.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For questions regarding this policy, contact document owner.