

AP-160-PR Medical, Biosecurity Protocol

Summary: Animals at higher risk of infectious disease are common in our work, and biosecurity precautions are necessary to prevent the spread of disease to animals and people.

Operational Protocol: Lifesaving Center staff, volunteers, and fosters utilize personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitation, observation or quarantine periods, and isolation to protect the health of individual animals and the population and to protect against the spread of zoonotic diseases.

High-risk populations

The following are considered high-risk populations for infectious disease because they are both more susceptible and are more likely to be contagious.

- Pediatric animals (<5 months of age)
 - Regardless of vaccination status, pediatric animals cannot be considered protected until 5 months of age or older.
- Adult animals recently (<14 days) received from traditional shelters, particularly those known to have high incidences of infectious disease
- All recently transported animals (<14 days)

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- At minimum, gloves should be worn when handling animals that are considered high-risk.
- Gowns or other body/animal covering (blanket or towel) should be used for close handling.
- PPE is changed between every animal or every litter/group that is housed together.
- “Clean” items or areas should not be handled when contaminated PPE is being used.

Disinfection

- Non-animal areas (break rooms, offices, any areas where animals are unlikely to be present) may be cleaned with products non-toxic to animals. Avoid quaternary ammonium compounds and phenol disinfectants (Pine-sol).
- For daily handling or procedures on high-risk individual animals, all equipment and surfaces should be covered (and covers changed) or disinfected between animals.
- Spot cleaning is acceptable for daily cleaning of animal housing areas.
- Deep cleaning should occur at least once weekly in all animal housing areas (exception: sanctuary areas with stable populations) and more frequently in high-risk areas.
- Rescue is the disinfectant of choice for animal areas. Refer to table below for dilutions and contact time.

Area/Use	Dilution	Contact Time	Notes
Daily cleaning of animal areas in low-risk settings; spot cleaning acceptable	1:64 (2oz/gallon)	5 minutes	Not effective against hardy pathogens (parvo, ringworm)

Lifesaving Centers – All-Centers Operations Manual

Revision history: Policy AP-000

Date:	Notes:	Lead Reviewers
Month & Year	Policy introduced	At least two or more lead reviewers required

Deep cleaning 1-2 times weekly for all areas, daily cleaning for high-risk settings (quarantine)	1:32 (4oz/gallon)	10 minutes	Effective against parvo, ringworm but requires longer contact time
Known disease (isolation areas, outbreak situations)	1:16 (8oz/gallon)	5 minutes	Also an option for routine deep cleaning (greater expense but shorter contact time reduces staff time)

Isolation

- Animals with known infectious disease or clinical signs of possible infectious disease are isolated from the general population (in appropriate isolation areas or in foster care).
- PPE use and sanitation measures appropriate for the specific disease are utilized.

Observation period without known disease exposure

- Routine intake quarantines are not recommended as they increase length of stay and prolong the period of potential disease exposure in the shelter setting.
- New intakes/high-risk animals may participate in events, outings, and transport but should be handled with appropriate PPE and biosecurity precautions.
- Group housing: Consider single housing of new intakes and high-risk animals until after an initial observation period has passed before combining or group-housing, depending on disease(s) of concern.

Observation period after known disease exposure

- Unprotected animals with known exposure to infectious disease should be housed separately and observed for the incubation period. They should be handled with PPE during that period.
- Parvovirus: 10 days
- Panleukopenia: 10 days
- Canine distemper: 14 days
- Ringworm: with a single exposure, lime dip once and handle as normal; for prolonged exposure, test animal to determine infection/carrier status.

Zoonotic disease risk

- PPE should be used when handling animals with known zoonotic disease.
- Because of zoonotic disease risk, PPE should be worn when handling all animal fluids (blood, urine, feces), even without known disease.
- Of particular concern, risk of *Brucella canis* is high during whelping; fosters should be advised on the use of PPE and appropriate hygiene with all whelping dogs. Pregnant spay is preferential for dogs originating from areas of higher risk.

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- Diseases of concern include:
 - Ringworm (skin contact)
 - Sarcoptic mange (skin contact)
 - *Brucella canis* (all fluids, reproductive tract; reproductive/birthing fluids are of particular high risk)
 - Leptospirosis (urine)
 - Chagas (blood)
 - Bartonella (non-intact skin contact)
 - Tick-borne disease (blood)
 - Hookworms and roundworms (fecal-oral, skin)

Exceptions:

- Exceptions to standard quarantine or isolation periods may be made on a case-by-case basis by Lifesaving Center leadership and medical staff.

Related documents:

- AP-160 Medical, Biosecurity Policy

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