

# Kennel Hygiene and Disinfection



## ENSURING OPTIMAL HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE

Maintaining clean and hygienic kennels is an essential task. Dirty and soiled living areas promote disease and parasite infestation, which can quickly lead to sick greyhounds. All greyhounds must have their kennel areas, yards and runs cleaned at least once a day.

GRNZ's Greyhound Welfare Standards specify the level of hygiene required as follows.

### SANITATION R\*

All equipment, including watering, feeding receptacles and utensils must be kept clean and free of food, mould, etc.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 2.27*

Equipment, gear, toys and bedding, including coats and blankets, must be cleaned before they are used by a different greyhound. Bedding, muzzles, coats and blankets must be kept clean and dry, and must be maintained in good condition for use, repaired or replaced.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 2.28*

Faeces, urine and food wastes and soiled bedding must be removed at least once a day from all facilities, with faeces disposed of in a hygienic manner and in accordance with the requirements of the local government authority.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 2.29*

Greyhounds must be removed from kennel areas prior to, and during, hosing.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 2.30*

All solid surfaces in greyhound enclosures must be easily cleaned and disinfected, and maintained in a clean, dry, and hygienic condition.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 2.31*

Only non-toxic paint must be used in greyhound enclosures.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 2.32*

Kennels and runs must be disinfected using a combination detergent/disinfectant product, at least once a week (or more often as required) and:

- a. prior to the introduction of a new greyhound;
- b. prior to whelping;
- c. upon the removal of puppies.

In the event of a suspected or confirmed reportable disease outbreak at a kennel, a virucidal veterinary, or hospital grade disinfectant must be used on all affected kennel areas.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 2.33*

*\* These standards above apply to greyhounds kept as pets.*

### TRANSPORTING GREYHOUNDS

When using compartments or cages for transporting greyhounds, they must:

- a. be securely fixed to the vehicle;
- b. where two or more greyhounds are transported, they must be kept in individual compartments or cages;
- c. be clean and free of urine and faeces prior to the commencement of the journey;
- d. be cleaned after use to maintain good hygiene and disinfected at least once a week with a hospital grade disinfectant.

*Greyhound Welfare Standard 6.10*

## WHAT DOES A DAILY CLEANING ROUTINE INCLUDE?

- Remove all solid wastes, uneaten food, chewed bedding, toys, etc.
- Wash away urine and any dirt or other matter stuck to floors or walls or wire with a high-pressure hose or scrub with a broom and water before rinsing with a hose.
- Wash the kennel areas with a disinfectant or a combination detergent/disinfectant product diluted according to the manufacturer's directions in warm or hot water.
- Kennel areas should be scrubbed (using a stiff-bristled broom) before being thoroughly rinsed with clean water. (Avoid pine-based detergents if there are cats on the property as these detergents can be toxic to cats).
- Clean food and water containers and ensure water containers contain clean water at all times.
- Remove soiled bedding and enrichment items (toys) and replace with clean, dry bedding and clean enrichment items.
- Clean all items used for feeding (including food preparation areas and utensils) at the end of each feeding time.

## WHAT DOES A WEEKLY CLEANING ROUTINE INCLUDE?

- All food bowls, utensils, water containers and enrichment toys need to be disinfected. Using a dishwasher at a minimum temperature of 65°C with dishwasher detergent (according to the instructions), is a good way of disinfecting plastics and metals.
- Soiled bedding, soft enrichment toys, and dog rugs/blankets should be washed in a washing machine at 65°C with washing detergent, especially if there is a greyhound who has been unwell.
- Disinfect sleeping areas, kennel runs, and other high traffic areas to prevent illness and disease.
- Particular attention should be paid to cleaning and disinfecting kennels when a greyhound moves kennels. To reduce the frequency of disinfection, carers should allocate fixed kennels to each greyhound and only move them if there is a specific reason or need.

## TIPS FOR DISINFECTION

- A veterinarian will be able to advise on a suitable disinfectant, but generally any supermarket disinfectant labelled as hospital grade is sufficient for regular disinfection.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions for any disinfectant or detergent product to avoid accidental poisoning or injury from cleaning residue.
- Make sure the greyhounds are removed from an area before disinfection begins and not be returned until the kennel area is clean and dry, and bedding has been replaced. If any fumes from disinfecting are strong, you may need to increase ventilation and wait until the fumes dissipate before returning greyhounds to kennels.
- When disinfecting during and after an outbreak of a disease (e.g. kennel cough or gastroenteritis), you must use a stronger or a specific veterinary hospital grade disinfection solution. Speak to your veterinarian for advice. You will also need to disinfect daily to reduce the spread of the disease. For more information on biosecurity see the [Biosecurity FAQs Fact Sheet](#) on the GRNZ website under Welfare/Resources.
- If your facility does not maintain a permanent kennel for each greyhound, you may want to consider changing the housing management. Regular kennel locations can help greyhounds settle better, feel more secure, and reduce the risk of disease spread.

# DISEASE PREVENTION CLEANING PROTOCOL

## GENERAL CLEANING

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent
- **Cleaning schedule:** Once daily
- **Cleaning protocol:**
  1. Remove all greyhounds from kennels.
  2. Remove beds, bedding, toys and food bowls.
  3. Clean faeces and other debris from pens using a pooper scooper and dispose of in an appropriate waste bin.
  4. Thoroughly hose out each pen.
  5. Dilute detergent to the highest concentration for very dirty surfaces and evenly splash onto the floor of each individual kennel and into the walkway. Leave the solution to soak for a minimum of 5 minutes. Wash detergent completely away with water – preferably using a high-pressure washer.
  6. Following washing, empty, scrub and refill water buckets with clean water.
  7. Scrape kennels and walkways to remove excess water.
  8. Replace any dirty or soiled beds or bedding immediately with clean bedding.

## KENNEL MATS

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent and bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** Weekly or more often if soiled
- **Cleaning protocol:**
  1. Dilute household detergent to highest concentration and pour on to the mat. Leave for 5-10 minutes. Ensure that the whole mat has been exposed to the detergent.
  2. Rinse/pressure wash both sides of the mat and hang to air dry.

## BEDDING, TOYS, LEADS AND FABRIC COLLARS (INCL. BLANKETS)

- **Cleaning agent:** Laundry powder and bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** Weekly and when soiled
- **Cleaning protocol:**
  1. Place soiled items in the washing machine and add laundry powder and bleach as per instructions. Wash in hot water.
  2. Once washed, hang to air dry or use a clothes dryer.

## FEED AND WATER BOWLS

- **Cleaning agent:** Liquid dishwashing detergent
- **Cleaning schedule:** Once a day after feeding and when dirty
- **Cleaning protocol:**
  1. Wash items in diluted detergent and warm water.
  2. Place on a drying rack and air dry.

## MUZZLES

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent
- **Cleaning schedule:** After use
- **Cleaning protocol:**
  1. Dilute household detergent to highest concentration in a sink or bucket with warm water.
  2. Place the muzzles in the water and scrub to remove any dirt, grime, etc.
  3. Let the muzzles soak for approximately 10-20 minutes.
  4. Remove and hang to drip dry, then return to the storage area.

## POOPER SCOOPERS

- **Cleaning agent:** Kennel sanitiser or bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** After use
- **Cleaning protocol:**
  1. Leave in a pre-prepared bucket of diluted sanitiser solution/bleach after use.
  2. New water and sanitiser solution to be changed every day.

## TRANSPORT VEHICLES AND TRAILERS

- **Cleaning agent:** Household detergent and bleach
- **Cleaning schedule:** Weekly depending on level of use.
- **Cleaning protocol:**
  1. Remove all mats and bedding.
  2. Dilute detergent in a bucket of hot water.
  3. Using a soft wet cloth, wipe the inside of the trailer or vehicle bay (floor, walls and wire) and scrub off any dried dirt, faeces, mud, etc.
  4. If the trailer is heavily soiled then the pressure washer may need to be used to clean it initially.
  5. Using a cloth with detergent solution, wipe/scrub outside of the trailer or vehicle - especially doors, handles, walls, front and back panels, and roof.
  6. Hose the inside and outside of the trailer.
  7. Let the trailer or vehicle air dry or wipe dry with a clean towel.
  8. Place clean fresh mats into cleaned bays and bedding ready for next use.
  9. For the passenger area remove all mats.
  10. Wipe the passenger area using dilute detergent in hot water with a soft cloth.
  11. Let the passenger area air dry or wipe dry with a clean towel.

GRNZ thanks GRV for providing part of this resource.