

CLEANING AND INFECTION CONTROL

About Cleaning

At every HSVMA-RAVS clinic we will serve hundreds of animal patients. Some of these animals are seriously ill or injured and may be immunocompromised. Many have never seen a veterinarian or been vaccinated for common infectious conditions. Almost all are under considerable stress.

It is the responsibility of all clinic staff to provide the best possible care to every patient. An important part of that care includes providing a clean, healthy environment. Thorough cleaning limits the spread of disease and infection. Do not take shortcuts during cleaning. The well being of our patients depends on this crucial task.

Standard Cleaning/Disinfectant

For most of our standard cleaning, we use Trifectant[®] (Potassium peroxymonosulfate), a broad-spectrum disinfectant diluted with water to a 1% solution. Follow dilution instructions carefully-Using more does not disinfect better it only wastes the product and increases the risk of chemical irritation to both staff and animals. Using any disinfectant at an inappropriate dilution can cause problems for the user including skin or eye irritation. Once mixed, Trifectant[®] solution can be stored for up to 7 days.

Bleach

Diluted bleach should be used to clean any area contaminated with a potentially resistant disease agent (eg: parvovirus, distemper, ringworm). Bleach is used at a dilution of 1:32 with water. Bleach solutions are **not** stable once mixed and must be replaced every 24 hours.

Clinic Cleanliness

Clinics are set up in various facilities which can sometimes make disinfecting surfaces challenging. However, the general cleanliness of the clinic area must be maintained at all times. Exam areas and treatment areas should be cleaned and disinfected as thoroughly as possible throughout the day. If possible, floors should be swept and mopped throughout the day. All equipment must be thoroughly disinfected before being packed.

For your own safety, human food should remain in the designated area and not be taken in to animal treatment areas.

Isolation Protocols

Housing: Any animal with a known or suspected contagious disease should be isolated from the general clinic population immediately. Conditions warranting isolation include: canine parvovirus, canine distemper, feline panleukopenia, feline upper respiratory infection, kennel cough etc.

Handling: The animal in isolation should be handled as little as possible. Clean exam gloves should be worn whenever the animal must be handled. If warranted, a disposable surgery gown can be used when handling the animal to avoid contaminating clothing. If the animal must be carried or handled for a procedure, wrap the animal in a towel to avoid contamination.