

Oakland Animal Services – Policy and Protocol Recommendations

Cleaning and Basic Care

Cleaning – Many studies have been performed and articles written on cleaning protocols for shelter environments. The lead veterinarian and shelter operations manager should make the final decision on the specific protocols needed for the Oakland Animal Shelter based upon resources, staffing, and the requirements for individual animal and shelter population management.

1. Accel – This accelerated hydrogen peroxide cleaning product is highly recommended as both a detergent and a disinfecting agent that can lead to ease in cleaning and reduction in staff cleaning time. Reviewed protocols from OAS mention the use of Accel, but this product can be the only cleaning agent used in the shelter. It is extremely safe to use around animals, humans, and is nontoxic to the environment. However, it can be an expensive investment to purchase and keep in stock. Published protocols are available on how to effectively use this product, including varying concentrations, in shelter environments.
2. Hot water as a limited resource – Hot water is not necessary to use as part of a cleaning protocol if proper cleaning and disinfecting agents and techniques are used and followed. Hot water should be used in washing machines and a sanitizer should be available for use for bowls, toys, plastic litter boxes, and any other objects that can be sanitized in such a way. Money saved on heating water can be put towards the supply of Accel.

Basic Care – This topic is all encompassing for animals in the shelter. Particular protocols for the various topics need to be individualized to meet the specific needs of the Oakland Animal Shelter, therefore the lead shelter veterinarian and shelter operations manager need to make the final protocol decisions. The list is not inclusive but rather a place to start. There are many resources available to aid in this process.

1. Cleaning – deep cleaning and spot cleaning
2. Husbandry
3. Enrichment
4. Initial assessment/evaluation of animal on intake
5. Intake procedures/protocols
6. Housing requirement based upon species and specific needs
7. Feeding requirements based upon species and specific needs
8. Safe/low stress handling techniques
9. Medical and surgical program
10. Vaccination protocols
11. Preventative medicine protocols
12. Disease recognition and treatment protocols – parvo, distemper, CIRDC, URI, panleuk, ringworm
13. Daily population evaluations
14. Disease outbreak protocols

Resources –

- UC Davis Koret Shelter Medicine Program – sheltermedicine.com
- University of Florida Maddie’s Shelter Medicine Program – sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu
- Association of Shelter Veterinarians – shelternvet.org
- American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Professional content – aspcapro.org