

Keeping Pets, People, and the Environment Healthy and Safe

The Association of Shelter Veterinarians
Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters



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What is Public Health

- Public Health is the science and art of protecting and improving the health of communities through education, promotion of healthy lifestyles, and research for disease and injury prevention.
- Overall, public health is concerned with preventing health problems before they occur and protecting the health of entire populations. These populations can be as small as a local neighborhood, or as big as an entire country.

- Association of Schools of Public Health



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Health Threats

Biological (Zoonoses)

- Rabies
- Larval Migrans
- Ringworm

Physical Injuries

- Animal Bites
- Needle Sticks
- Noise

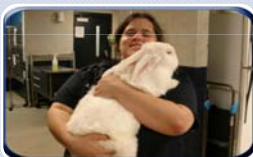
Chemical Injuries/Irritants

- Disinfectants
- Ammonia



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Who is Affected



Staff



Volunteers
and Foster
Parents



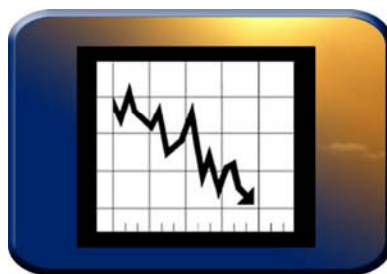
Visitors-to
shelter or
offsite events



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Why Care

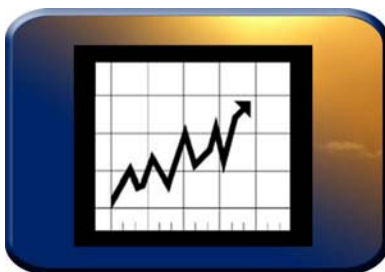
- Worker Productivity
 - Absences from work
 - Higher turnover



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Why Care

- Increased Costs
 - Workman's comp
 - Medical payments/insurance premiums
 - Liability claims



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Why Care

- It's the Law
- Reputation



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Zoonoses

- Those diseases that can be transmitted from animals to people



- All people are at risk but immune-compromised individuals are at greater risk



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Rabies

- 2009 -- domestic animals made up 7.5% of all rabid animals
- 7.2% increase over 2008
- Cats were the majority (59.4%)
- 2011 human case acquired from a stray cat in CA



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The Other Face of Rabies



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Rabies Prevention

- Pre-exposure Rabies Vaccinations
- If possible, vaccinate animals prior to adoption/reclaim or require the adopter/owner to do so afterwards
- Report all bites to local health authorities responsible for rabies control



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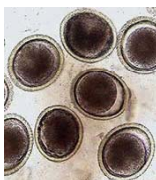
Ringworm



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Larval Migrants

National study of shelter dogs
Nationwide - 36% shedding
Southeast - 52% shedding



Companion Animal Parasite Council <http://www.capcvet.org/index.html>
Recommendations and Free Educational Resources!



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Quick Poll

**Have you or anyone in your shelter contracted
a zoonotic disease?**

Use the buttons on the right side of the screen to answer.



Click  for **YES**

Click  for **NO**



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Risk Reduction



Prophylactic
De-worming
and External
Parasite Control



"Rounds must
be conducted
at least once
every 24 hours"



No Food in
Animal Areas



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ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care

"Information about zoonotic diseases should be made available to visitors, adopters and foster care providers"

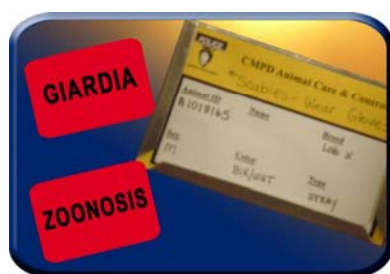
"Literature should suggest that immune compromised adopters discuss pet selection with health care professionals before adoption"



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Risk Reduction

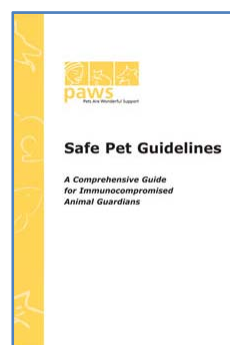
- Isolation
 - Away from the general population of animals
 - Restricted public access and limited staff access
 - Identification of animals



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Risk Reduction

- Protect the Immune-compromised
 - Assume all are immune-compromised
 - Information on health risks should be visible and readily available without disclosing health status



<http://www.pawssf.org/>

Immunocompromised Household: Informing Clients
<http://www.pawssf.org/document.doc?id=28>



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Risk Reduction

- Protect Foster Parents
 - Animals with known or suspected zoonotic disease should not be sent into foster care
 - Provide information on what to do in case of suspected illness or bite, including after-hours instruction



ASPCA Infection Control for Home Based Foster Care
(tipsheet and webinar archive)

<http://www.aspcapro.org/foster-care.php>



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Reporting

- To Supervisor/Manager/Veterinarian
 - Appropriate treatment for the animal
 - Appropriate treatment for a human exposure
- To State or Local Animal/Human Health Agency
 - Each shelter is responsible for knowing which diseases are required to be reported



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Training/Written Protocols



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ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care

“Shelters should provide periodic staff and volunteer training and information on the recognition of potentially zoonotic conditions and the means of protecting others from exposure”

“Ideally, a written zoonotic infection control plan should be available to all staff and volunteers”



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Infectious Disease Control Plan

- Policy- indicates **what** response will be to an animal with a specific disease
 - Based on the nature and severity of the disease
 - Reflects the shelter's philosophy and available resources
 - Avoids delays in decision making that could allow disease spread

- Protocol-details **how** disease is handled in the shelter
 - Determined by the established policy
 - For each disease- prevention, recognition, transmission, treatment and management in the shelter population



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Many Resources Available

- Textbooks, University Program websites

- Iowa CFSPH http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Infection_Control/index.php
loads of resources on specific zoonotic diseases, biologic risk management and general infection control practices, some educational tools as well.

- **Maddie's Infection Control Manual for Animal Shelters** This manual was developed as a resource for veterinarians and veterinary students involved in animal shelter medicine. The purpose of this handbook is to enhance knowledge about infection control measures in the shelter environment, and to aid veterinary professionals in the development and implementation of infection control protocols.

- **Maddie's Animal Shelter Infection Control Tool**
<http://shelter.cfsph.iastate.edu/Manager/ManagerDefault.aspx>

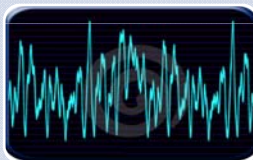


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Physical Injuries



Animal
Bites



Noise



Needle
Sticks



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Animal Bites

- Occurrence is under-reported
- Fewer reported bites from cats
- Cat bites more likely to become infected



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Training/Prevention

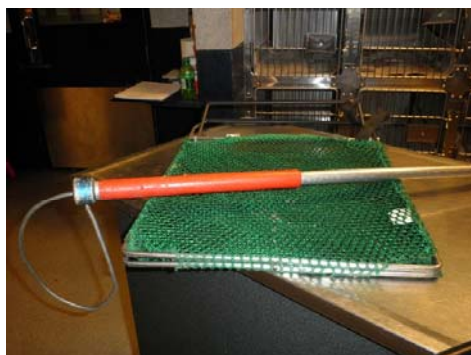
- Body Language Recognition



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Training/Prevention

Animal Handling

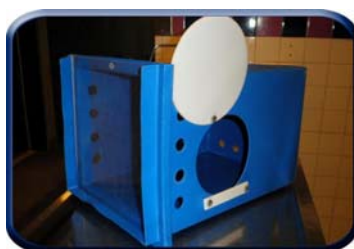


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Training/Prevention

■ Housing

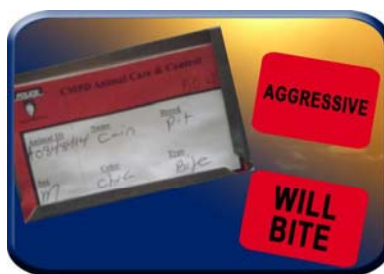
“Housing that requires dogs to be removed by use of a control pole or cats to be removed using nets for daily cleaning and care is unacceptable”



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Training/Prevention

- Identification of biting and aggressive animals



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Quick Poll

Does your facility rehome biter animals?

Use the buttons on the right side of the screen to answer.



Click  for **YES**

Click  for **NO**



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Rehoming of Biter Animals

- Considerations
 - An animal deemed to be dangerous should not be rehomed
 - May present threat to public health and safety
 - Liability for shelter (\$ and reputation)
 - Circumstances must be investigated
 - Assessment of the animal by experienced personnel
 - Full disclosure to adopters



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Noise

- Sound levels in shelters regularly exceed 100 db
- Hearing protection may be required if you have to raise your voice to be heard



Largely due to barking but hard surfaces contribute;
University of Cincinnati study showed hearing loss in dogs after 6 months



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Noise Abatement



- Sound absorbing materials
- Instruct staff not to make excessive noise



Environmental enrichment



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Needle Sticks

- Puncture wound from the needle
- Possible injection of material in the syringe



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Risk Reduction

- Don't uncap needle with your mouth
- Don't walk around with uncapped needle
- Don't recap needle with two hands
- MSDS sheets present in the areas where tranquilizers, euthanasia drugs, etc. are used

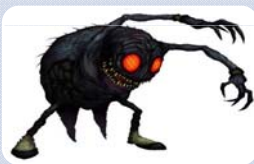


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Chemical Hazards



Disinfectants



Pesticides



Anesthetic
Gases



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Disinfectants and Sterilants

Concentrated forms more
toxic, caustic or irritating

Know the hazards-review
MSDS and product labels

Toxicity may be a selection
criterion as well as efficacy



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Risk Reduction

- Follow manufacturers recommendations for storage, handling and use
- Eye protection if fumes or splashes are a concern



- Dilute in a well ventilated area



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Pesticides

- Environmental (eg. rodenticides)
- Animal (eg. flea control products)
 - Absorbed through the skin of people too!
 - Avoid direct contact with products during application and recently applied
- Most are regulated by EPA



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Anesthetics

- Compressed gas cylinders
 - Explosive risk
 - Should be confined in a small reinforced room and chained to prevent falls
- Waste anesthetic gases
 - nausea, dizziness, headaches, fatigue, and irritability, as well as sterility, miscarriages, birth defects, cancer



OSHA WAG Guidelines

<http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/wasteanestheticgases/index.html>



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Risk Reduction

- Maintain equipment in good working order
- Use a scavenger and leave animals on the circuit after turning off the flow of anesthetic
- Avoid routine use of masks
- Recover in well ventilated area



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OSHA Hazard Communication Plan

- Every business which handles, stores, or uses potentially dangerous chemicals must develop a written plan for these procedures. These rules apply to all chemicals on the premises, regardless of whether they are currently in use
- Include a list of all hazardous products in the shelter
- Compile all MSDS sheets
- Staff must be trained; training should be documented



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OSHA Hazard Communication Plan

- Ensure that all containers, including secondary bottles for mixed solutions, are properly labeled



What is in the unlabeled bottle?



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OSHA Hazard Communication Plan

- Ensure that all containers, including secondary bottles for mixed solutions, are properly labeled



Does not have to be fancy



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Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- Skin
 - Gloves, gowns, aprons, smocks, tyvek suits
- Eyes and Face
 - Safety glasses, goggles, splash shields
- Respiratory
 - Mask, respirators
- Other
 - Hearing protection, non-slip shoes



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ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care

“Personal protective equipment (PPE), such as gloves, smocks, goggles, masks, etc. must be provided by the employer in order to protect employees from exposure to chemical and biological agents”

- Appropriate for the task and person in correct size
- Training on proper use and disposal



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Gloves and Hygiene

- Gloves are just as capable of spreading germs as hands!
 - Usually worn to protect the person wearing them from chemical and biological agents
 - If you would normally wash your hands before the next task, then you should ideally change your gloves



- Remove gloves appropriately
- Wash hands after removing gloves



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ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care

“Hand washing should be strongly encouraged after handling animals and after removing PPE”

“Ideally hand washing facilities should be easily accessible to all visitors, staff and volunteers”

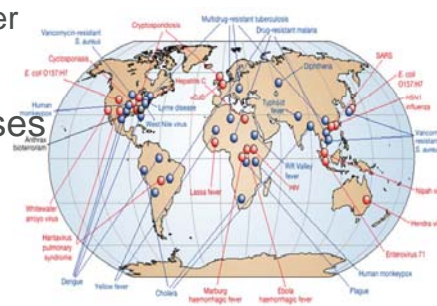
“Hand washing is the best way to protect people and animals in the shelter from possible disease transmission”



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Emerging Diseases

- Community diseases will be reflected in the animal shelter population
- Reemergence of diseases
 - panleukopenia, distemper
- Newly emerging diseases
 - Canine influenza



Antimicrobial Resistance



It was on a short-cut through the hospital kitchens that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.



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ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care

“Routine use of antibiotics to prevent infection in healthy animals is unacceptable and must never be used as a substitute for good animal health management”



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MDR *Salmonella typhimurium* DT 104

- Animal Shelter in Idaho
 - human cases had adopted cats
- Culture identified infected cats
 - Most non-clinical or developed diarrhea after adoption
 - Extensive environmental contamination in facility
- 49 human cases, 10 hospitalized, 0 fatalities
 - child who visited shelter but did not adopt



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MDR *Salmonella typhimurium* DT 104

- Shut down for three weeks
 - Disinfected and painted
- Scratches in polypropylene cages still harbored bacteria and had to be replaced
- New protocols for cleaning, animal flow, disease prevention and management



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MDR Salmonella typhimurium DT 104

- Signage in the shelter
- Waiver on adoption forms
- Handouts on zoonotic diseases
- Visitors in cattery only when supervised
 - Hand washing before and after handling each cat is enforced



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Regulation and Guidance

- Local health departments
- State Depts of Agriculture, Public Health, EPA
- State and National Org. (AVMA, ASV, etc.)
- Federal Agencies
 - DEA—regulates controlled substances
 - FDA—regulates drug prescription and labeling
 - USDA—regulates biologics such as animal vaccine
 - EPA—regulates pesticides and disinfectants
 - CDC—protects human health, regulates animal import
 - OSHA—regulates safe and healthy workplace
 - NIOSH—research and guidance for OSHA



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OSHA in Shelters

- Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 created OSHA in the Department of Labor and NIOSH in the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Federal rules--but states are allowed to have their own plans in lieu of federal as long as they meet or exceed their requirements. OSHA must approve these state plans
- Some states are regulated by the state, some by the federal government and some by both. To find your state:
<http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/index.html>



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OSHA in Shelters

- In states that are covered by federal only, there is no jurisdiction over the public sector
- Insurance companies may stipulate that OSHA requirements are met as a requirement for coverage—this would also give them an out should a problem occur and the shelter was not in compliance
- Regardless of jurisdiction, these are widely held industry practices and failure to meet them could bring additional liability



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OSHA in Shelters

- Every employer must maintain or post in a prominent location:

- Job Safety & Health Protection Poster (OSHA 3165) or state equivalent. (recommended \$1,000 fine if it is not posted prominently)
- Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (OSHA 300 & 300A) and Supplementary Record of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses (OSHA 301). if the business has 11 or more employees or if the business is selected to participate in a DOL survey.



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OSHA in Shelters

- Every employer must maintain or post in a prominent location:

- Copies of any OSHA citations for violations of standards
- Appropriate warning or identification signs. Exits, hazardous areas (radiation), or situations (hearing protection required), etc.



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OSHA in Shelters

- All stairs must be well lighted, those with more than 4 steps must have a handrail
- First-aid kits are required if medical care is not in close proximity
- Ergonomics is gaining recognition as there is an increase in repetitive motion injuries
- Employees driving on the job are also covered with basic vehicle safety and maintenance requirements



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OSHA in Shelters

- The general duty clause says that workplaces must be maintained in a manner free from physical and health hazards; employers must take action to prevent any recognizable hazard in the workplace that could cause illness or injury



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OSHA in Shelters

- Mandated training for specific hazards; which apply varies by type of business.
- Is or may be mandatory training in shelters
 - Emergency & fire prevention plans
 - Occupational noise exposure
 - Required PPE
 - Medical services and first aid
 - Hazard communication (chemicals)



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OSHA in Shelters

- Additional trainings as part of the general duty clause should also be documented. In a shelter some of these might include:
 - Needle stick prevention
 - Waste anesthetic gas management
 - Safe lifting of heavy objects
 - Proper mixing of sanitation chemicals
 - Animal Handling
 - Zoonotic Disease Prevention



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OSHA in Shelters

- Some plans are required to be in writing, they should be readily available and specific to the shelter. May include:
 - Hazard Communication
 - Emergency Action Plan
 - Fire Safety
 - Others
- Templates are available and can be used but they must be modified



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OSHA in Shelters

- OSHA compliance officers can visit a shelter to follow up on a complaint or on request of management
- Either way they will identify deficiency and notify the administration of requirements and recommendations
- If they are invited they will not fine for any violations they find; unless of course, they are not corrected in a reasonable time period



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Comprehensive Health and Safety Program

- Four main elements are essential to the development of this voluntary Program:
 - Involvement of employees and shelter leadership
 - Worksite hazard analysis and risk assessment
 - Written (all) hazard prevention and control policies
 - Ongoing health and safety training

[OSHA Develop a Comprehensive Health and Safety Program](#)



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Safety and Health Resources

[OSHA Effective Workplace Safety and Health Management Systems](#)

[AVMA Guidelines for Hazards in the Workplace](#)

[AVMA Guidelines for Veterinary Practice Facilities](#)

[AVMA Veterinary Facility Occupational Risks for Pregnant Workers](#)



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Questions



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www.ASPCApro.org/asv

- Register for additional webinars in the series
 - Links to webinar recordings
- Download presentation slides and bonus materials

Next Webinar in Series:
Association of Shelter Veterinarians
Shelter Guidelines: Spay/Neuter
Thursday, November 17



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