



# OPTIMAL ANIMAL HEALTH IN CO-LOCATED SHELTERS

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# Co-located Sheltering

- ❑ Animals and people stay in same building/area
- ❑ Owners generally care for their own animals housed in a separate area
- ❑ The animal portion is structured—animals are checked in, visiting and animal care hours set, and shelter supervised by Shelter Manager



# Benefits of Co-located Sheltering

- Animals comforted by being cared for by their people
- Better care provided—owners know their animals best, often bring their own food that the animal is used to
- People comforted by being able to take care of their animal family in the midst of upset and disaster



# How to Optimize Animal Health

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- Provide healthy living conditions
- Identify and prevent infectious diseases
- Minimize animal stress
- Plan for veterinary medical care

# Provide Healthy Living Conditions

- Smart shelter set up—make the most of your options
- Often don't have much choice—but if do, choose areas with separate rooms, offices, etc. (for isolation, different species, quiet)
- Separate species appropriately--like species together, do not put prey and predator in same room

# Provide Healthy Living Conditions

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- Secure cages with adequate space
- Temperature
- Quiet
- Traffic patterns—isos, quiet areas away from high traffic
- Remember--you are working in an emergency situation

# Providing Healthy Living Conditions



# Identify and Prevent Infectious Diseases

- Identify infectious diseases—intake and ongoing
  - Canine parvovirus, distemper, kennel cough
  - Feline Upper Respiratory Infection, panleukopenia
  - Ringworm
  - Internal and external parasites

# Identify and Prevent Infectious Diseases

- Isolate appropriately (ex. ringworm, kennel cough, etc.)
- Establish, teach and require residents to follow disease prevention protocols
  - ▣ Post animal handling and cleaning rules
  - ▣ Provide PPE as appropriate
  - ▣ No petting or handling other's animals

# Identify and Prevent Infectious Diseases

- Shelter staff should clean and disinfect common areas, floors, and walkways
- Have disinfection protocols written out for shelter staff and posted (increases compliance)
- Bleach protocols posted
- Have plan for animals that present symptoms
  - ▣ Isolation areas
  - ▣ Veterinary options identified

# Minimize Animal Stress

- ❑ Negatively impacts animal health
- ❑ Compromises animal immune system
- ❑ Can trigger virus shedding and reactivate infections



# Minimize Animal Stress, cont.

- Minimize, not eliminate
- Visual barriers—between cages and sections
- Noise reduction
- Enrichment—toys, scratching posts
- Animals only have contact with *their* people
- Schedule—provide down time (*not* open 24/7)
- Secure doors and lights out at night

# Minimize Animal Stress, cont.

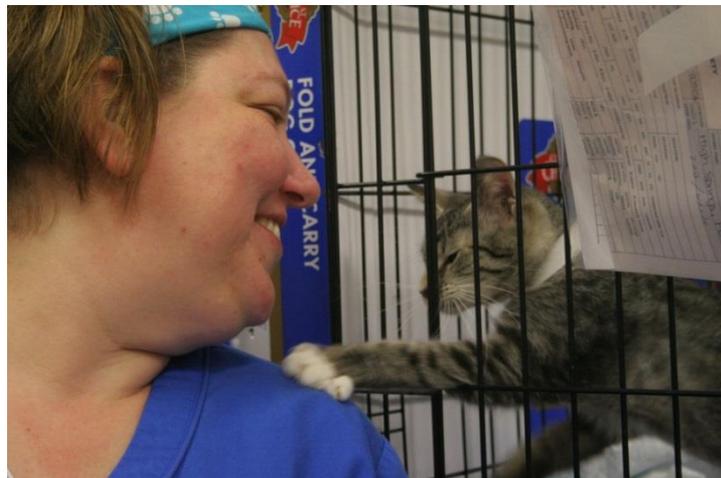


# Minimize Animal Stress



# Veterinary Medical Care

- ❑ Plan for veterinary emergencies and medication needs
- ❑ Intake form indicates if treatment permitted
- ❑ Identify nearby, open veterinary clinics
- ❑ Identify a veterinarian available to consult by phone
- ❑ Carriers and transport options



# Additional Considerations

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- Vaccinations
- Reporting requirements for bites
- Aggressive animals
- Security

# Additional Resources

- Infectious Disease Management in Animal Shelters (Lila Miller and Kate Hurley, Wiley-Blackwell 2009)
- Emergency Animal Sheltering Best Practices--<http://nasaaep.org/files/bestpract/sheltering-whtpaper6-23-12.pdf>
- Disaster Veterinary Care Best Practices--<http://nasaaep.org/files/bestpract/vetcare-whtpaper6-23-12.pdf>
- ASPCA Disinfectant quick reference--<http://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/aspc-shelter-disinfectant.pdf>
- ASPCA Bleach diluting quick reference--<http://www.aspcapro.org/sites/default/files/aspc-bleach-poster.pdf>
- ASPCA Food Calculator--<http://www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-animal-care-intake/use-food-calculator-0>
- Signs of Animal Emergencies--<http://www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-animal-care-intake/signs-veterinary-emergencies>
- Dog and Cat—normal temperature and pulse <http://www.aspcapro.org/resource/shelter-health-animal-care-intake/normal-temperature-pulse-and-respiratory-rate-tp-r-dogs>