

2014 International Conference on Feline Health

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Feline Housing Macro Environment Design Concepts

Room Layout Considerations

- Prevent cats from facing each other.
- Provide pleasant views.
- Place housing on outside walls for natural lighting.
- Keep storage and prep items conveniently located.
- Provide hand washing stations, particularly in intake holding and isolation.

Mechanical Systems

- For odor control, provide the following:
 - One hundred percent exhaust.
 - Negative pressurization.
 - Twenty-five air changes per hour for cats in individual housing. (*Fifteen-twenty air changes per hour if venting through cages.*)
- Provide access to the out of doors if possible for the best air quality and enrichment.

Plumbing Systems

- Locate drains in rooms with hoseable caging.
- In cat rooms where clay litter is used, drains should have hinged covers.
- Finishes must match cleaning protocols. Hoseable rooms must have hoseable finishes.

Noise Control

- Layout considerations
 - Plan to provide two doors between dogs and cats.
 - Cats should not be housed adjacent to dogs.
- Noise reduction - Dampen sound with ceiling tiles or wall panels.
 - Provide hold down clips on ceiling tiles in rooms with loose cats.
 - Tiles and panels must have a Noise Reduction Coefficient > .65.

- Isolation - Provide sound isolation walls around cat areas to prevent the presence of dog noise.
- Other considerations
 - Prevent noise that is outside the range of human hearing:
 - Buzzing of lighting fixtures.
 - Mechanical system rumbling.
 - Fan noise.
 - Install quiet latches on cat cages.

Materials and Finishes

- Hose down flooring options
 - Porcelain tile with epoxy grout.
 - Thick resinous (epoxy or equivalent) coatings.
- Dry flooring options
 - Sealed concrete in healthy cat areas.
 - Heavy duty welded seam sheet vinyl.
 - Sheet rubber.
- Wall protection
 - Tile or thick epoxy coatings on walls in hose down areas.
 - Wall protection panel systems are acceptable in mop down rooms.