

Handout

Low-Stress Animal Housing

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Topic	Dogs	Cats
Macro-Environment		
Noise Prevention	Fewer dogs in each room. Dogs should not face each other.	Two doors between dogs and cats.
Noise Reduction	Ceilings with Noise Reduction Coefficient (NRC) of at least 0.70.	Place some acoustical materials in cat areas as well.
Noise Isolation	Create high mass walls around dogs. Walls should go to structure.	Cats should not share a wall with dogs.
Inaudible Noise Sources	Place mechanical equipment away from animals.	Place mechanical equipment away from animals.
Lighting Levels	Stepped or dimmable lighting.	Stepped or dimmable lighting.
Type of Lighting	LED if possible. If not possible, then full-spectrum fluorescent bulbs.	LED if possible. If not possible, then full-spectrum fluorescent bulbs.
Vented Caging	Supply air in aisle and exhaust from over the run.	Cages can be directly vented. 20 CFM per cat is a good rule of thumb.
Fresh / Outside Air	100 percent exhaust or 90 percent filtration in animal areas.	100 percent exhaust or 90 percent filtration in animal areas.
Air Changes	12-15 air changes per hour for odor control.	15-20 air changes per hour for odor control.
Configuration		
Size	Wider is better than deeper. Large enough for free range of movement.	Minimum four foot wide condo for an adult cat, five foot wide is even better.
Double-Sized	Two-sided runs allow dogs choice about where to eliminate.	Two compartment caging. Provide a food side and litter side.
Relation to Other Housing	Not facing other dogs.	Not facing other cats unless the distance is at least eight feet.
Relation to the Outside	Ideally can see out of enclosure to other neutral spaces.	Ideally can see out of enclosure to other neutral spaces.
Access to the Outdoors	Indoor/outdoor, operable windows, or easy access to outdoor exercise.	Operable windows, cat porches, views of the exterior.
Features		
Bars or Glass	Glass reduces barking. Use bars at bottom of gate for air flow.	Horizontal bars or glass. In adoption, provide a way to interact with cats.
Hiding / Barriers	Provide an optional barrier for aggressive dogs.	Provide a hiding box.
Beds	Provide a kuranda or other bed in a run or room.	Provide a soft bed. Do not wash during stay of single cat, unless soiled.
Latches	Provide safe latch, operable by caretakers but not by dogs.	Provide quiet latches and hinges on cage doors.
Food versus Elimination Areas	Food and bedding are on one side, elimination on the other side.	Separate food and litter by at least three feet.
Color Palette	Blues, greens, purples. Keep colors light, but avoid pure white plastics.	Blues, greens, purples. Keep colors light, but avoid pure white plastics.
Cageless Options		
Group Housing	Group housing is not practical, but play groups can be very successful.	Rules of thumb: four - eight cats per colony; 18 s.f. per group housed cat.
Co-Housing	Bonded pairs can be housed together, assuming run is large enough.	One - two cats can be housed in 3' x 5' vertical cat suites.
Play Areas	Very important for dogs to get exercise. Large indoor or outdoor play.	A socialization room can be used for individually housed cats to get out.