



### Instructions for Cleaning Foster Areas

When caring for foster animals, it's important to consider that they may be carrying diseases we cannot see. To effectively clean and remove contagions from the environment, it is vital to use a two-step cleaning and disinfecting process. It's also important to remember all cleaners and disinfectants are not equal, and it's important to use an appropriate disinfectant following all directions to ensure your cleaning is effective.

Be sure to consider all objects and areas they may have come into contact with and disinfect them appropriately before bringing new animals into the area previous fosters have occupied. We generally request that a thorough cleaning and disinfecting is done before introducing new animals to your foster space, to prevent any spread of disease that can live in the environment. ***If your foster animals had a contagious disease while in your care, we will send a specific protocol for deep cleaning!***

#### **The difference between cleaning and disinfecting:**

- **Cleaning** breaks up actual dirt or organic matter. It is the physical removal of dirt and debris. This includes washing bowls, litter boxes or other items with dish soap or other household cleaner, sweeping or vacuuming floors, or wiping away urine or feces. **Cleaning is typically done on a daily basis!**
- **Disinfecting** uses a chemical solution to kill or inactivate germs. The type of germs killed is dependent on the solution and requires a specific contact time in order to be effective. Contact time is the amount of time that the surface must remain visibly wet in order to kill the germs.
  - The most inexpensive, readily available and effective disinfecting product is bleach, which kills most common pathogens, including ringworm. AHS can provide another disinfectant (Rescue) if you would prefer this over bleach or need a disinfectant that is color-safe.

#### **Two-step process to clean and disinfect foster areas:**

##### **Step 1:** (this is typically done daily)

- Clean all areas (wipe down hard surfaces, sweep/mop hardwood floors, vacuum carpets/rugs, etc.) with a common household cleaner.
- Make sure all dirt and debris has been thoroughly mopped, wiped, vacuumed or swept away.

##### **Step 2:** (after Step 1, typically done about every 2 weeks and **always** done before bringing new foster animals home)

- **Option 1:** Using RESCUE and water solution diluted 1:8 (**4 oz Rescue concentrate per gallon of water**), wipe down hard surfaces, mop floors, and spray any carpet or fabric. **Make sure that all surfaces remain visibly wet for 10 minutes.**
  - **\*RESCUE SHOULD NEVER BE MIXED WITH BLEACH PRODUCTS\***
    - Rescue is non-toxic, green, and generally color-safe, but we always recommend a test area to be safe.
- **Option 2** Using a bleach and water solution diluted at 1:10 (**1 part bleach, 10 parts water**), wipe down hard surfaces and mop floors. **Make sure that all surfaces remain visibly wet for 10 minutes.**
  - Remember to wipe down hard surfaces after ten minutes to remove any residual bleach as it may be harmful to animals.
    - **Note:** Once mixed, the bleach/water solution is only effective for 24 hours and must be protected from light.



Any supplies like blankets, towels, litter boxes, litter scoops, toys, carriers, play pens, etc. should be returned to AHS for sanitizing. You can also return leftover litter, food (wet and dry). We'll send you a new set of supplies when you take new fosters!

**Cat towers / scratching posts:**

Cardboard scratchers should be discarded between litters. For cloth cat towers / scratching posts, vacuum well and clean off any visible debris. Soak the entire cat tower with bleach (1:32) or Rescue (4oz/gallon) on all sides and surfaces, until they are tangibly soaked and allow to sit for 10 minutes. If using bleach, rinse very well (this can be done outside with a hose)

**Playpens:**

Spray down all surfaces (inside and outside) with bleach (1:32) or Rescue (4oz/gallon) on all sides and surfaces, until they are tangibly soaked and allow to sit for 10 minutes. If using bleach, rinse very well (this can be done outside with a hose).

**Litterboxes, litter scoops, bowls, hard plastic toys:**

Discard any leftover used litter. Clean any visible debris with a common cleaner (dish soap works well for this). Spray down all surfaces (inside and outside) with bleach (1:32) or Rescue (4oz/gallon) on all sides and surfaces, until they are tangibly soaked and allow to sit for 10 minutes. If using bleach, rinse very well (this can be done outside with a hose).

**Blankets, towels, soft toys:**

Be sure soft toys don't have batteries in them! Wash any bedding or soft toys using regular laundry detergent (ideally unscented) and bleach (1:32). If any bedding cannot be washed with bleach (sentimental blankets) it's better not to use it for fosters- but if it has already been used you can spray down with Rescue (4oz/gallon) and then put it through the wash normally.

**Carpet:**

It is easier to keep fosters in a room that isn't carpeted, but if your foster room is carpeted and kittens weren't in a playpen / kennel the carpet does need to be disinfected before you bring home new fosters. Vacuum and clean any visible debris, then spray carpet with bleach (1:32) or Rescue (4oz/gallon). You can also use a carpet cleaner with appropriately diluted bleach or rescue if preferred.