



Effective Cleaning

Introduction

Apart from general hygiene (see our handouts on Cage Hygiene for Birds, Reptiles and Small Mammals), there are specific cleaning protocols that need to be followed after the diagnosis of specific diseases.

Chlamydia - Birds

Remove all organic material, including faeces and feather dander, from the enclosure daily. At the beginning of treatment, and then weekly, clean all contaminated items with detergent and hot water solution, wearing gloves and preferably a face mask. Disinfect using a solution of household bleach (1 part bleach to 32 parts water), Virkon (1 part Virkon to 99 parts water) or F10 (1 part F10 to 250 parts water). Leave disinfectant in contact for 20 minutes, then rinse well. Ensure good ventilation throughout the procedure. These disinfectants can cause airway and eye irritation. Repeat this process at the end of the treatment course.

Flagellates including Trichomonas, Cochlosoma, Giardia

Remove all organic material from the enclosure, including faeces and vomit. Remove all water and food dishes. Clean all contaminated items with detergent and hot water solution. Remove any congealed vomit or faeces from the animal. Shampoo reptiles and small mammals (but NOT birds) using Natural Shampoo, available from reception. Discard all porous items (replace perches with new native wood perches). Disinfect remaining non-porous items, using solution of household bleach (1 part bleach to 32 parts water). Ensure good ventilation throughout the procedure as bleach can cause airway and eye irritation. Leave in contact for 20 minutes, then rinse well, before returning items to enclosure. Repeat this process on the enclosure and the animal at the beginning and end of the treatment course.

Worms – All species

Remove all faecal material from the enclosure. Clean the enclosure and all items within using hot soapy water and detergent. Any items that cannot be cleaned should be discarded. Clean the enclosure daily, removing faeces as soon as possible to prevent reinfection of your animal. Try to avoid your pet coming into contact with their own faeces during this time. Repeat this process from the beginning at the second treatment.

Viruses – All species

Remove all organic material, including faeces and feather/fur dander, from the enclosure daily. Clean any contaminated items with detergent and hot water solution, wearing gloves and preferably a face mask. Disinfect using a solution of household bleach (1 part bleach to 32 parts water) or Virkon (1 part Virkon to 99 parts water). Ensure good ventilation throughout the procedure as these disinfectants can cause airway and eye irritation. Leave in contact for 60 minutes, then rinse well, before returning items to enclosure. Discard any porous items immediately. Repeat this process.

Mycoplasma and other respiratory infections - Rodents

Rat and mouse mycoplasmas are spread in the air, on shared equipment, on humans hand and clothing. It is difficult to completely decontaminate the environment after contamination with Mycoplasma. However, the amount of infection can be reduced. Remove all organic material from the enclosure. Discard all porous enclosure equipment. Clean all non-porous enclosure equipment, and the enclosure itself, with hot soapy water, then use a solution of household bleach (1 part bleach to 32 parts water) or F10 (1 part F10 to 125 parts water) to spray the enclosure. Leave in contact for 30 minutes, then rinse well. Ensure good ventilation throughout the procedure. These disinfectants can cause airway and eye irritation. Repeat this process weekly.

Dermatophytosis (fungal disease)

In long-haired animals, clip the fur short. Vacuum any dropped fur from clipping and from the enclosure and discard immediately. Wash your pet using Malaseb Shampoo. After foaming, leave the shampoo in contact for 10 minutes before rinsing off (ensure that your pet does not become chilled and dries rapidly). Repeat shampooing weekly until treatment is finished.

Clean the enclosure with a solution of F10 (1 part F10 to 125 parts water), and repeat daily while treatment is continued. Discard porous enclosure furniture, and clean non-porous enclosure items weekly.

Coccidia

Remove all organic material, especially faeces, from the enclosure. Discard all porous enclosure equipment. Clean all non-porous enclosure equipment, and the enclosure itself, with hot soapy water. Coccidial oocysts are resistant to most disinfectants, so prevention of reinfection relies on regular (at least daily) removal of faecal material from the enclosure. Clean the enclosure weekly while your pet is undergoing treatment. If your pet has any faecal staining or accumulation, then shampoo using Natural Shampoo, available from reception.

Other Protozoan Parasites

Remove all organic material, including faeces and fur dander, from the enclosure daily. Clean any contaminated items with detergent and hot water solution, wearing gloves. Disinfect using a solution of household bleach (1 part bleach to 32 parts water). Ensure good ventilation throughout the procedure as bleach can cause airway and eye irritation. Leave in contact for 10 minutes, then rinse well, before returning items to enclosure. Discard any porous items immediately. Repeat this process weekly during treatment.

