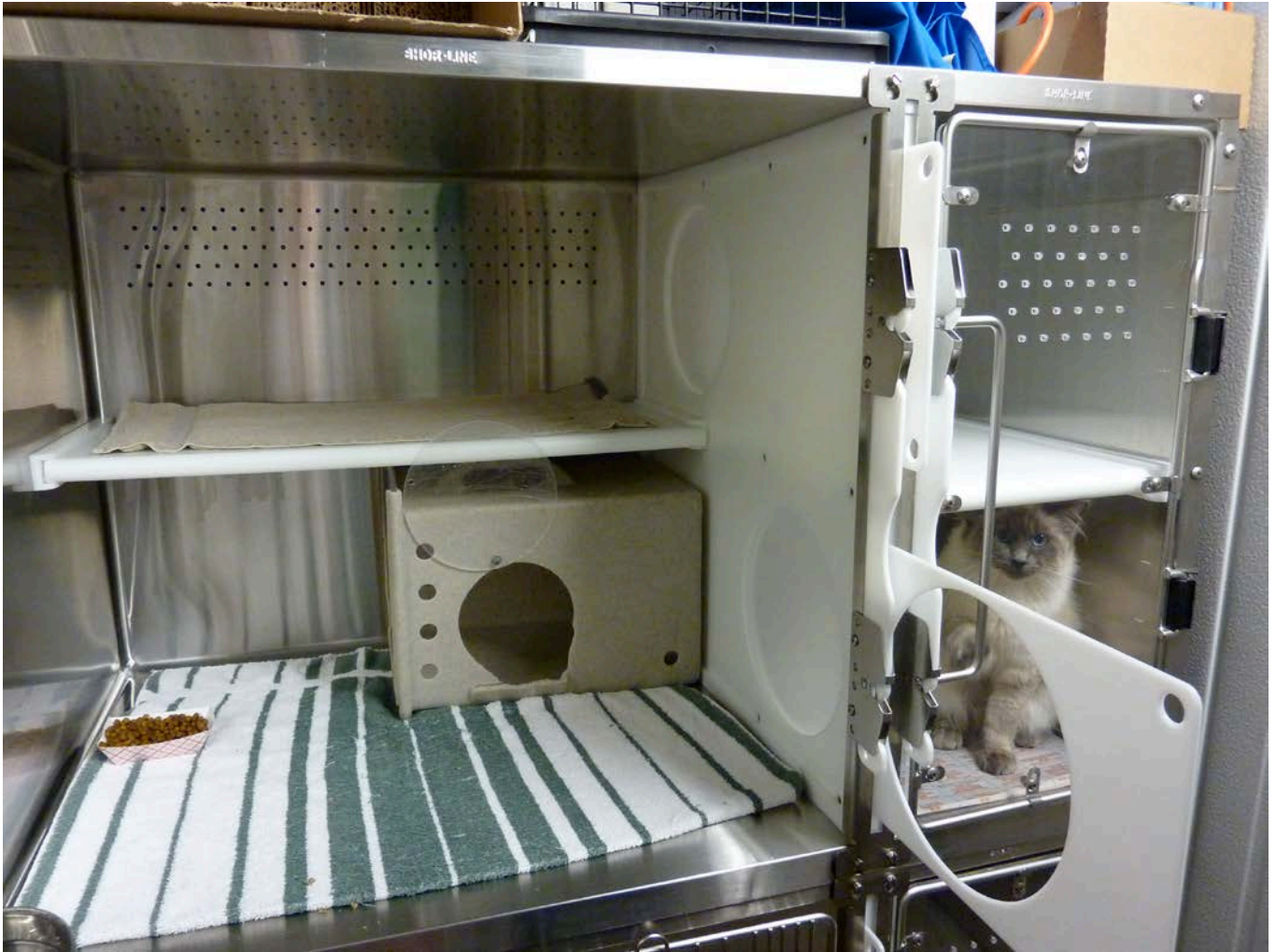


## Instructions for Spot Cleaning Cat Cages



### Cat Care Cleaning Tip:

Reduce cat stress by reducing noise - quietly open and close cage and room doors and make efforts to reduce the metal clang of dishes.

### **Before you start**

- Look at each cat in the room for changes in health that may affect your cleaning order or who may need care
  - Make sure health changes are recorded and shared with those responsible for animal health care
- Have prepared food bowls, water bowls and litter boxes as needed
  - Separate cleaning supplies should be available in each cat housing room/area and not shared
  - Cleaning in each room should proceed relatively uninterrupted until the room is finished.
    - This is important for reducing the risk of disease transmission into or out of a room as well as reducing stress for the cats by making cleaning time efficient
- Clean with a routine
  - Changes in routine are stressful for animals - a low stress routine that is common to all staff members will help ensure a lower stress, healthier transition to the shelter environment

### **Example spot cleaning protocols:**

Spot cleaning in a double compartment cage:

1. Put on a clean pair of gloves
2. Close the door(s) that separate the two sides of the cage
3. Quietly open the door of the compartment that the cat is NOT in
4. Examine the interior of the cage (including front bars) for organic material (feces, snot, food, etc.). Clean out the material with one time use paper towel or 'raglet' and soap and water as needed. Discard used paper towel or put 'raglet' in the laundry.
5. Depending on what is on this side remove food, water, litter box, remake bed and tidy cage. Continue to use the same bedding material unless it is wet or soiled or is dirty (some cat hair is ok). If this is the side for the food and water - replace with fresh food and water. If it is the litter box side - replace with clean litter box.
6. Close door quietly
7. Open compartment dividers that separate the two sides of the cage
8. If the cat moves to the other side on its own – great! If the cat remains on the side you need to clean try to entice it to move across or simply open the door and gently assist it through the divider door to the other side and close the divider door(s).
9. Repeat steps 4 & 5 for this compartment
10. Close cage door quietly
11. Cage has been spot cleaned!
12. Change gloves between cages if housing kittens and between banks if housing adults

Spot cleaning a single compartment cage with friendly cat:

1. Put on a clean pair of gloves.
2. If the cat seems friendly and unlikely to escape- open the cage door.
3. Do not handle the cat if possible or if needed gently restrain the cat with 1 gloved hand while you manage to accomplish the following:
4. Remove litter box, food and water dishes and any organic debris inside cage.
5. Examine the interior of the cage (including the front bars) for organic material (feces, snot, food) and clean with one time use paper towel or 'raglet' and soap and water as needed.
6. Tidy cage interior - make bed, etc. Continue to use the same bedding material unless it is wet or soiled or is dirty (some cat hair is ok).
7. Replace dishes with fresh food and water and place a new litter box
8. Quietly close cage door
9. Change gloves between cages if housing kittens and between banks if housing adults

Spot cleaning a single compartment cage with unfriendly cat (these cats should be housed in a cage with a feral box inside along with a partial to full cage cover over the cage front):

1. Put on a clean pair of gloves
2. Lift or remove cage cover
3. If cat is not already inside feral box, use safety equipment to carefully help the cat enter the feral box and close the feral box door
4. Quietly open cage door
5. Cover feral box window with towel
6. Remove litter box, food and water dishes and any organic debris inside cage
7. Examine the interior of the cage (including the front bars) for organic material (feces, snot, food) and clean with one time use paper towel or 'raglet' and soap and water as needed
8. Discard paper towel or put 'raglet' in laundry
9. Tidy cage interior- make bed, etc. Continue to use the same bedding material unless it is wet or soiled or is dirty (some cat hair is ok).
10. Replace dishes with fresh food and water and place a new litter box.
11. Remove towel covering feral box
12. Quietly close cage door
13. With safety equipment open feral box door
14. Replace cage cover
15. Change gloves between cages if housing kittens and between banks if housing adults

**Cat Care Cleaning Tip:**

Water and food dishes that spill can contribute to a messy cage for cleaning. Dishes that are 'untippable' or attach to the front of the cage can reduce spills.