



Canine Kennel Specifications

Facility Kennels

- Must meet the following requirements established by the Virginia Division of Canine Health and the State Veterinarian.
 - All fencing must be a minimum of 6-gauge chain link material.
 - Each kennel must have a smooth finish cement slab base. The size will be a minimum of 6' x 10'. The slab should be slightly pitched to allow for water runoff during rain or when cleaning.
 - The kennel walls must be cement. The walls should extend to a minimum height of 6'. The top of the kennel shall be covered with fencing, or a like material, in such a way as to prevent the canine from climbing the walls of the kennel.
 - All support and corner posts shall be set in cement.
 - A 3' wide, 6-gauge chain link pedestrian gate will be located at the end of the kennel opposite the doghouse. The gate shall be equipped with a latch and locking device.
 - For institution kennels that do not have indoor climate controlled housing for the canines, the doghouse may be constructed of cinder block, polyurethane, or aluminum materials with the inner wall sealed to allow for proper cleaning and disinfecting. The Virginia Division of Canine Health requires a minimum of four coats of epoxy paint to adequately fill and seal all pits in porous materials.
 - A doghouse or an approved laying pad must be installed in each kennel run, raised from the cement slab to allow for cleaning and to prevent water and other trash from entering the doghouse.
 - The inner walls of the doghouse must measure approximately 32" x 40". The ceiling on the inside of the doghouse will be at least 30" from the floor.
 - A heating device may be mounted inside the doghouse to allow for heat during cold periods. This device should be installed in a manner that would prevent injury to the canine. Care should be taken not to overheat the canine.
 - All kennels must have access to running water, electricity, and portable fans.
- Each canine must be housed individually.
- An exercise area must be provided at the kennel.
- Security fencing will be constructed around the kennels to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the area.
- Kennels must be cleaned with a disinfectant daily to minimize odor and to prevent bacteria from forming which may be detrimental to the health of the canine, cleaning and maintenance of the kennel area is the responsibility of the Canine Officers assigned to each institution.
- When the air temperature is above 32 degrees, kennels will be hosed daily. During hot weather, kennels should be hosed with clean water to provide a cooling area when on the concrete slab.
- During periods when temperatures are expected to fall below 32 degrees, care must be taken to prevent the formation of ice in the kennel, which could result in canine injury.
- Doghouses and fencing must be checked daily to ensure that no loose or protruding objects are present that may cause injury to the canine.

Residential Kennels

- Kennels constructed prior to the use of the mobile kennels (K9 Castles) must comply with the requirements established by the Virginia Division of Canine Health and the State Veterinarian.
 - All fencing must be a minimum of 6-gauge chain link material.
 - Each kennel must have a smooth-finish cement slab base. The size will be a minimum of 10' x 12'. The slab should be slightly pitched to allow for water runoff during rain or when cleaning.
 - The kennel walls must be heavy chain link fencing.
 - The walls should extend to a minimum height of 6'.





- The top of the kennel must be covered with an A-frame or lean-to roof made of material that is sturdy enough to withstand severe weather such as ice, heavy snows, or heavy rains. This roofing material should prevent debris from entering the kennel, and prevent the canine from climbing out of the kennel.
- Removable sides of rigid clear plastic material may be added in cold weather.
- All support and corner posts must be set in cement.

- Doghouse

- Depending on the restrictions of the Canines Officer's residence, institutions or regions can purchase approved canine castles/housing from an approved vendor and with approval from the Statewide Canine Coordinator.
- The doghouse may be constructed of cinder block. The inner wall must be sealed to allow for proper cleaning and disinfecting. The Virginia Division of Canine Health requires a minimum of four coats of epoxy paint to adequately fill and seal all pits in porous materials.
- The floor of the doghouse should not sit on the cement slab, but be raised to allow for cleaning and to prevent water and other trash from entering the doghouse.
- The inner walls of the doghouse must measure approximately 32" x 40". The ceiling on the inside of the doghouse will be at least 30" from the floor.
- The roof of the doghouse must be made of a durable material that will prevent rain, water, wind, or snow from entering the inside of the doghouse. The pitch of the roof should be so designed as to allow for the run off to be carried away from the kennel and doghouse entrance.
- A heating device may be mounted inside the doghouse to allow for heat during cold periods. This device should be installed in a manner that would prevent injury to the canine. Care should be taken not to overheat the canine.

- All kennels must have access to running water and electricity.

- Each canine must be housed individually.
- An exercise area must be provided at the kennel.
- Cleaning and maintenance of the kennel area shall be the responsibility of the Canine Officer.
- Kennels must be cleaned daily.
- When the air temperature is above 32 degrees, kennels will be hosed daily. During hot weather, kennels should be hosed with clean water to provide a cooling area when on the concrete slab.
- During extremely hot weather, extra care should be provided to the canine to prevent heat related illnesses; kennel should be properly ventilated and shaded; fresh cold water should be provided at all times; routine checks should be made on the canine and kennel.
- During periods when temperatures are expected to fall below 32 degrees, care must be taken to prevent the formation of ice in the kennel, which could result in injury to the canine.
- Kennels must be cleaned with a disinfectant a minimum of once per week in order to keep down odor and to prevent bacteria from forming which may be detrimental to the health of the canine.
- Doghouses and fencing must be checked daily to ensure that no loose or protruding objects are present which may cause injury to the canine.

