



Facility Design Checklist

The *ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters, 2nd ed.* provides comprehensive guidelines for shelter facility design. Whether designing a new shelter build or evaluating a current facility, the checklist below will aid in that process.

General Facility Considerations (ASV Guidelines, Sections 4.1, 4.12)

- The shelter facility must include sufficient space to allow for the execution of essential shelter operations and programs as required by mission or mandate
- Both the quantity and design of housing must be appropriate for the species, the number of animals receiving care, and the expected length of stay
- Facility design and use must provide for proper separation of animals by species, predator/prey status, health status, and behavior
- Shelters must avoid large warehouse type rooms when designing housing
- In order to meet the changing needs of the community and services offered by the shelter, flexibility in operational and spatial use should be incorporated into designs for remodeling and new facilities
- When designing a new facility or undertaking a significant renovation, shelters should consult with a shelter veterinarian and an architect experienced in shelter design
- When remodeling or planning a new facility, the movement of animals, people, and supplies should be incorporated into the design
- Animal shelter design should provide an environment that also serves the needs of personnel and clients

Surfaces and Drainage (ASV Guidelines, Section 4.5)

- Primary enclosures and all animal areas must be able to be fully sanitized and withstand repeated cleanings
- A sealed, impermeable surface, such as resinous epoxy or resinous urethane, is recommended for shelter flooring and should be considered for new facilities
- Points where walls meet floors should be sealed to prevent water intrusion and the accumulation of organic matter and pathogens
- Drainage systems must be designed to prevent standing water and cross contamination of waste between housing units
- Floors should be gently sloped to enable waste and water to run into the drains, particularly in animal housing areas
- Drain covers must be designed to prevent injury or escape
- Drain covers should be easily removable for routine cleaning
- Outdoor primary enclosures or portions of primary enclosures that are outdoors must have nonporous, durable floors that allow for sanitation and proper drainage

Heating, Ventilation and Air Quality (ASV Guidelines, Section 4.6)

- Ventilation must be maintained at a high enough rate to ensure adequate air quality in all areas of the shelter including in the primary enclosure
- Ventilation must not compromise recommended ambient temperatures
- All ventilation systems must be regularly maintained based on manufacturer recommendations
- Environmental temperature must be maintained between 64°F (18°C) and 80°F (26.6°C)
- Animals must be monitored individually to ensure the environmental temperature is comfortable
- Necessary measures must be taken if an animal appears too cold or too hot
- Relative humidity should be maintained between 30 and 70%
- Air from isolation areas should be exhausted outside and not recirculated
- Ultraviolet irradiation must not be relied on as the sole method for ensuring good air quality or infectious disease prevention

Noise Control (ASV Guidelines, Section 4.7)

- Noise must be minimized in animal housing areas
- Noise and vibration-producing equipment and mechanical systems should be located as far away from animal housing as possible
- Prevention and mitigation strategies to minimize the impact of noise should be implemented in facility design, added to existing facilities, and incorporated into shelter operations
- Preventing visual contact between dogs should not be used as a sole strategy to reduce barking

Lighting (ASV Guidelines, Section 4.8)

- Lighting should promote a safe working environment and effective observation of animals and the enclosure
- Facilities should be designed to offer as much natural light as possible
- When natural lighting is not available and artificial light is used, it should approximate natural light in duration and intensity to support circadian rhythms