

CANINE DECONTAMINATION EQUIPMENT

Equipment - General

1. Box container
 - We chose to pack the K9 decon kit smaller items in one box. HazMat has this box in their cache section.
 - The larger items (pools and shelving) are separate but kept in the same area.
2. Waterproof tarp
 - 1-2 of these are laid on the ground, and the decon set-up (pools and shelving) are placed on top.
3. Sealable industrial strength plastic bags
 - These are used to contain contaminated items
 - Either one of these or a length of heavy plastic sheeting is placed over where the 2 pools meet to prevent contaminated water from leaking between the pools
4. Hose
5. Spray nozzle or wand
 - This allows for water to be better directed underneath the canine (belly wash)
 - An adjustable water flow
6. Buckets
 - Used to throw in the contaminated collars, leashes, and used brushes until they can be collected in bags for disposal
 - Also can be used to decontaminate metal items that will be reused
7. Water heater (separately stored item)
 - To prevent hypothermia in a cold weather deployment
 - A tent or other environment that can be warmed and provides wind protection is needed as after a water decon the canines will not be completely dry for a while
 - If not available, consider acquiring a groomers drying unit to quickly dry the canine
8. Pools – 2 (separately stored item)
 - A WMD or HazMat decon model uses two separate areas: one for wash station and another for the rinse station
 - We like the TVI Corp canine pools (www.tvicorp.com) that have a hose connection to divert contaminated water away, are easily set up and fold down to a small unit for storage
9. Elevated Shelving
 - Advantages include keeping the canine out of contaminated water, preventing them from drinking that water, easier to decon properly (especially under the belly and the paws), easier on your back, and easy to assemble
 - We used plastic shelving from Home Depot that was inexpensive, light-weight, and easily assembled but will probably not stand up to more than one 2 week deployment
10. Shallow Pan or Box
 - If a biologic hazard is suspected, walk the canine through a foot bath of dilute Clorox solution (0.5% sodium hypochlorite made by 1:10 dilution in water)

NOTE: Detailed information about creating this canine decontamination station can be found at www.usarveterinarygroup.org under the HazMat & Decon section in a paper titled ‘Advanced K9 Decon Station and Field Testing’

Equipment – Human PPE

1. Eye protection
 - 4-8 pairs of goggles if needed to protect from contaminated water spray
 - The canines will inevitably shake themselves at some point as well
2. Gloves – 2 boxes
 - Latex or all non-latex to cover latex allergies, these often tear with much use
 - A heavier over-glove if needed for protection from more hazardous materials
3. Masks
 - Situation-appropriate issue
4. Tyvek Suits or situation-appropriate issue protective suit

Decontamination Supplies

1. Mineral Oil – 1-2 bottles
 - We put this in spray bottles for easy application to areas of petroleum-based contamination (usually on the paws and in between the toes)
 - The adage ‘like dissolves like’ is the basis for using this oil to break up the contaminant, then applying a shampoo or soap to remove it from paws or hair
2. Spray bottles – 2, for mineral oil application
3. Ophthalmic (Eye) Rinse – 4 bottles
 - This is used if there are clear signs of eye irritation or contamination, otherwise it is left for the post-decon medical check to use if needed
 - There are saline and purified water solutions that can be purchased off the shelf
4. Liquid soap
 - Dish detergents like Dawn® or Palmolive® are traditionally used in animal decontamination, but they do produce a lot of suds
 - For a low suds alternative, the military uses Prell®, and we will be testing this out in the future
5. Dog shampoo
 - After several soap washes, the oil-based protection on their skin is gone and the coat becomes dull
 - This will help re-establish the coat after several soap shampoos
6. Surgical scrub brushes
 - Not too harsh but stiff enough to work, we found surgical scrub brushes to fit the bill nicely
 - The BD E-Z Scrub 160 Ref 1603 (2 boxes, 30/box) have a plastic bristle side and a sponge side
7. Absorbent material
 - Baking soda or cornstarch are typically used to absorb a liquid contaminant and then be wiped off
 - This decreases the contaminant burden that must then be removed
8. Moist towelettes
 - They can be used to wipe sensitive areas around the eyes, nose, mouth, and inner ears as well as prepuce and vulva where soaps can be very irritating
 - These can be used to wipe off powder contaminants before they aerosolize, as brushing may put powders into the air and further contaminate personnel, although a wet towel will do just as well
9. Large absorbent towels
 - Drying dog after decon

Canine Supplies

1. Dog dryer or shelter from cold
 - In addition to warm water, a heated shelter area is good to continue the drying process during cold weather
 - A groomers dryer will hasten the drying process, but a warm protected environment will be fine along with monitoring the canine for signs of hypothermia (temperature check is the easiest!)
2. Emergency Blankets
 - Protection if wet in a cold environment
3. Scissors
 - Bandage scissors are preferred as they have a blunted tip that won't cut the skin when taking off bandages
 - Never shave or use clippers to remove hair to skin level, as this may cause abrasions and worsen contamination
4. Muzzles
 - 6 cage muzzles, 2 each various sizes
 - We use basket muzzles so the canines can still pant if needed as well as receive some water decon through the muzzle
 - Intended use is for known aggressive canines, or questionable situations when the handler is not present and another handler unavailable
 - Aggressive canines that cannot be muzzled may need to be contained in an area (tied in a safe spot or kenneled) until qualified personnel can help handle them for decon
5. Leashes
 - Disposable leashes can be used as a collar and leash combination to replace contaminated leashes and collars that must be removed

