

1.2 Enclosures and Activity Areas

1.2.1 General Housing Principles

Optimal dog housing allows animals to exercise, socialize, and exhibit as many normal behaviours as possible. The provision of a safe environment that minimizes the risk of injury and stress contributes to overall well-being. Reducing risk of disease transmission will have a positive impact on overall animal health within the facility.

The primary enclosure and activity area may be combined into one space for each dog, or may be divided into sections depending on function. Regardless, the entire space the dog has access to must facilitate the dog's daily needs. These daily needs include eating, drinking, resting, elimination, exercising, socializing, and interacting with humans.

Exercise for dogs is of prime consideration. If no separate exercise areas are provided, pen sizes are adjusted to provide exercise space, and a daily exercise program is instituted (outdoors when weather permits).

The following requirements and recommendations apply to both indoor and outdoor housing designated as the dog's primary enclosure, including group housing.

