

Intake and Flow w/ 4 Days for Life

The intake process at any shelter is critical to the health of the population and prevention of disease transmission at any shelter. Outlined below is what American Pets Alive recommends for open intake shelters.

1. Create a process and/or staff position where contagious *illness is identified immediately at intake*.
2. Have a way to *intake sick animals in a different area than healthy animals*.
3. Animals should *never come into contact with one another* and should be kept ideally 20ft from each other even before intake (parking lot, lobby, truckport).
4. Shelters should change the flow of dog intake, housing them per their immunity to disease.
5. Vaccinate everyone as soon as possible. *Nothing moves to a kennel without a vaccine*.
6. Ensure vaccines are kept at proper temperature at all times and are not drawn up prior to their use.

Identifying Illness at Intake

Preventing spread of disease at intake is critical to maintaining a healthy population of animals.

Intake staff should be on high alert for contagious disease symptoms including:

- Yellow or Green Nasal Discharge
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Lethargy
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Twitching or Seizing (associated with distemper)

Should any of these symptoms be identified, that dog is immediately moved back into the owners car or moved into a sick intake space for further investigation. These dogs should never be left in an area where other dogs are (including the lobby). It is preferable that until it is determined what they are sick with, that they are not moved to an area with other animals with contagious illnesses. Immediate action to move the dog must be taken.

Sick Intake vs Healthy Intake

It is imperative that sick animals never cross the path of a healthy animal. This includes being intaked in the same space as healthy animals. Sick animals need an area they can go to and wait for a further exam or test. This area should have an exterior door so they are not moving through the shelter as well as not moving past any healthy animals, ever.

Keeping Animals Separated

All animals must be kept at least 15 ft from each other, ideally 20ft. This means people may have to wait in their cars with a ticket or number system. Dogs cannot come into contact with each other. No more wait lines or lobby areas. Get creative here!

4 Days 4 Life

Current research indicates that the DAPP vaccine provides sufficient immunity after 72 hrs of administration to keep a dog safe (from dying) from distemper if it is exposed to the virus. Housing animals with relatively similar immunity decreases spread of disease between current population and new arrivals. On Day 4, dogs can be moved into a general population.

To achieve this you will need to separate your intake into three separate areas that are as far apart from each other as possible. These will serve as your daily intake areas/stray hold. Ideally these areas are:

1. Still accessible to the public
2. 20ft apart from one another

We recommend implementing a program for owner surrender and stray/found (by public) dogs which encourages people to take the dog home for 3+ days (after a DAPP is given) to allow for some degree of protective immunity against distemper to activate before entering the shelter.

Processes for Intake

American Pets Alive! has developed two different intake processes to reduce disease transmission (especially in the midst of a distemper outbreak). The goal is to reduce contact between immuno-naive dogs as much as possible, and for dogs to have some degree of vaccination protection before entering general population.

Your shelter's space will determine which process is best- if you have three separate rooms/spaces available for intake, process 1 is the best option. If you only have one large space available for intake, process 2 is the only option. *It is vital to empty out and deep clean the intake room(s) prior to implementing this new intake process.* This may require the use of a temporary shelter to clear out.

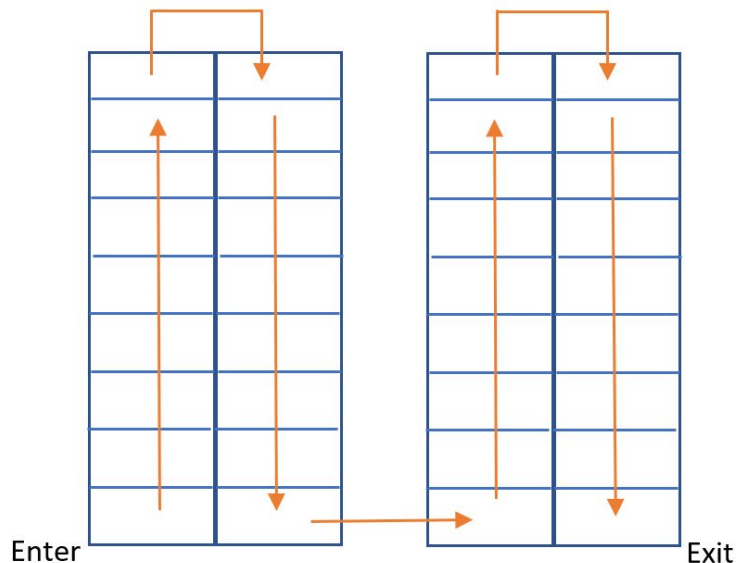
Process 1 - "Intake by Day" Process

Process 1 is for shelters that have three separate intake areas - this can be three separate rooms or three separate rows of kennels (or some combination of the two). Each area should be separated by 15-20 ft so that each population is separated from the other. Each area will be designated for one day's worth of intake. On the fourth day, the initial day's intake can be moved into general population, the room can be deep cleaned, and new intake for the fourth day can begin. Example:

- **Day 1 (Monday Intake)**
 - All dog intakes move into 1st designated intake kennel row/room. This section/room is closed off at the end of the day.
- **Day 2 (Tuesday Intake)**
 - All dogs move into 2nd day kennel row. This section/room is closed off at the end of the day.
- **Day 3 (Wednesday Intake)**
 - All dogs move into 3rd day kennel row.
- **Day 4 MORNING - or- Day 3 END OF DAY**
 - After closing or late in the day (after new intake stops), all dogs in Day 1 (Monday's intake) move into an adoption area where the general public will primarily go to for "shopping". The Day 1 Intake room/kennels are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- **Day 4 (Thursday Intake)**
 - All new dogs for intake move into 1st designated intake kennel row.

Process 2 - "Snake" Process

Process 2 is for shelters that have one large intake room/area instead of the ability to separate out each intake population by day. Dogs recently intaked will start at a designated kennel near the "intake entrance" and each day will be moved down one kennel (during the kennel cleaning process) towards the "exit" which is located close to general population/adoptions. We describe this process as "snaking through the shelter". This process allows for dogs in neighboring kennels to stay as consistent as possible, minimizing the amount of exposure to other dogs. By the time a dog reaches near the "exit" and is ready to go into general population/adoptions, he/she should be 72-hours post-vaccination.



A few important things to keep in mind:

- If and when dogs leave within their 3 day hold (medical transfer out, owner surrender reclaim, rescue, etc) when the cleaning process begins dogs get "scooped" together and moved closer to the exit. No "new" dogs move into those empty kennels.
- Dogs move one kennel over every day. This is a lot of movement however it is only to the next kennel and this has to happen as staff cleans.

Exceptions to the process

Dogs that have proof of a current DAPP vaccination and are owner surrendered should always move immediately to adoptions. There is no reason to keep these dogs in a stray or vaccination hold.