Sanitation Part 2

Okay, so welcome to part two. We're going to start where we left off, and we'll start off with air cleaners. But before we do that, just get an older picture of mine. You'll notice things are either in containers or in plastic baggies. That glass bottle is actually an essential oil disinfectant spray and needs to be kept in a glass bottle. And let's go for air cleaners. The purpose of an air cleaner is that your facility doesn't smell. Cleaners and disinfectants can remove odor causing bacteria from hard surfaces, but not from porous surfaces such as tile, grout, crevices, and floor seams. Steam cleaners can get into these spots which quantify it as an air cleaner as well. Then there’s enzymatic or friendly bacteria sprays

There are room and building units that start around $600. That's a good investment for shops. You will have to talk to your HVAC guys for that. The new generation of ozone air cleaners that are good.

Let's go on now to our tools. First off what needs to be cleaned and/or disinfected. Scissors, combs, brushes, clipper, blades. Blade wash would be used for blades. Soap and water is really good for removing the biologicals. Spray sanitizers are different than a spray disinfectant. A spray sanitizer would be like a 70% alcohol-based spray, whereas a spray disinfectant that's your cool lube or Microban. Make sure you read the label to make sure that it is doing what you think it's doing.

Ultrasonic cleaners you can get fairly cheap ones and throw in some dish washing. Toothbrushes for getting into the crevices especially of the clipper blades. When I clean the tub in between pets, I will put the chlorhexidine based shampoo in there and I will throw the tools in there that can be thrown in there. Such as clip on blades, brushes, and combs. The chlorhexidine shampoo as it goes through the circulator will push all the biologicals out of it. Remember anything that you get soap and water on or anything liquid on it, you need to make sure you oil your scissors and your blades.

The difference between using a UV sanitizer for me or spray disinfectant? For me it's time. If I have time, my tools go into the UV sanitizer and let it do its magic there. If not, then I'm going to then I'm going to use a spray disinfectant.

**The equipment.** That’s our loops, harnesses, and leads. Also, the dryer hoses dryer and vent filter. So right I throw all of those into the tub with the chlorhexidine shampoo and I wash them.

**Towels.** They should either be bleached or use a quaternary product in the machine. Third option sanitizing cycle on your washing machine. Not just the hot water cycle, it is not hot enough to sanitize.

**Water recirculating pumps**. I will use the chlorhexidine shampoo, push it through the pumps, right and then after it sits for the recommended amount of time. Then I will run vinegar through it to clean out all the soap scum.

**Tabletops** needs to be disinfected. But you need to be careful as the paws are one of the few places on the body that can absorb anything that is on the table. I like table covers. You can buy in premade or they are easy enough to make. They can be as simple as getting a towel and clapping it to the table. And then for the next pet remove it and put a clean one on.

**Products**. The biggest concern is going to be cross contamination. If the nozzles of any of these products touch the pet, they need to be sprayed with your choice of disinfecting or sanitizing spray. If I reuse a bottle, I'm going to clean it, do a vinegar rinse and dry before any product back in. You could also put the shampoo bottles in your dishwasher, then make sure they are cleaned and dried before you put new products into it.

You want to be careful with the storage of gallon sized containers, because water and hair promote bacteria and other nasties, so either put plastic wrap under the cap or use one of those gallon pumps. And when you reuse that pump in a different gallon, make sure you clean it and dry it out first. If you pre mix anything, make up one day's worth, and then clean and dry the bottle before you reuse. I would always have doubles of everything. So when one bottle was empty, I would take out the spare and clean the other.

I use a plastic jar for ear cleaner and add the textured nail wipes to it. You could pick those up at Sally's. When the jar is empty, I get out the spare. For spa products, you can use a tongue depressor for one time use or ice cream sticks. You find the stuff at the dollar store. Rather than dipping my wet fingers into a spa product, I'm going to use the ice cream stick or tongue depressor too scoop it out and then toss it.

Styptic products. I'm going to put a little bit into my hand and not dip the foot into the jar itself. Ointments washes or protectants- watch those tips. Don't let them touch the eye.

Let's go back to product it's a premixed. There was something called for Furnuncolis. It's a significant bacterial infection. This is how that happens. You have product that you've premixed sitting there for a couple days. There is now bacteria in it because water creates bacteria and you wash the dog. Pores are open on the dog and you're forcing basically bacteria into the pores of this pet. It can cause a significant bacterial infection which can be deadly. And people can get this too. You have like an open cut on your hands and you're using contaminated product. You can easily cause this for yourself not just for pets.

**Let's move on to the four walls.** We’ll get to the water tanks and water heaters momentarily. Now this is going to be a little bit different depending on whether your house call, mobile, or shop. As a mobile groomer, I run shampoo through my circulator in between pets, I'm rinsing the tub at the same time. Then I'm going to clean the tub with a cleaner at the end of the day. And then again at the end of the week. Ceilings, walls, and floors are cleaned way more often in the mobile in the shop because we're touching everything. Long handles feather dusters are a must. Cages in a shop each time a new pet is put in including the risers and the doors. It is so much better to assign a cage to a pet so it's not to have to clean in between.

Soiled windows. I can't think of any other single item that is dirty makes the entire shop look dirty. That that and clutter, right? Shop kitchens and bathrooms need to be spot cleaned daily and well at the end of the week.

Water tanks and water heaters are going to be a mobile groomer issue. Standing water is a breeding ground for all sorts of bacteria. If you're not using your van for a couple of days, drain all the water including the water heater and be careful not to turn your water heater back on until it has filled or you are going to burn out that element. The water tanks can be cleaned with sodium dichlor. It can be found at any RV place. Follow the directions on the bottle. Gray tank should be clean with the foaming agent and baking soda. When you're using anti freeze system designed for freshwater tanks in the winter, it needs to be flushed before using. If you're fortunate enough to have a van that you can remove the fresh water and grey tanks, do so. That is a best way to make sure that those tanks are clean.

Know your state regulations and what they expect from you. The AVMA.org is a good resource. Always have a change of clothing, including shoes, and everything in a closed container because that keeps hair out. Your local animal control officer can let you know what is required of you.

Let’s take a break. And I'll come back and I will finish this up for the last session.