

# Degreasing: A necessary process in pet-care facilities

By Chris Quinlan  
For The Education Center

**D**egreasing is a necessary part of cleaning pet-care facilities—something I discovered 30 years ago when I started in the animal-care industry. Most animal hospitals and shelters exclusively used bleach or a germicidal cleaner for sanitation purposes. And that practice just wasn't cutting it.

In other industries, such as food service, degreasing also is necessary for proper sanitation. Restaurant and kitchen surfaces accumulate an oily buildup from food that germicides won't remove. When a restaurant uses a sanitizer to wipe down surfaces but doesn't degrease the surface, customers will notice when everything sticks to the tables. Even worse, this buildup prevents sanitizers or disinfectants from doing their job of killing surface germs.

This oily buildup isn't easily removed with bleach solutions or germicidal cleaners. Bleach contains no detergent or degreasing qualities at all, and germicidal cleaners are formulated with detergents designed to emulsify normal soiling—not grease and oil. Dish soap is a common degreaser we all use every day. Could you imagine washing your dishes with a soap that didn't cut the grease? Sure, they would seem clean to the eye, but would they be squeaky clean to the touch?

The same situation occurs with animal-care surfaces that develop a dirty, oily buildup. Many times, surfaces that need



Before using Cage and Kennel Degreaser and after.

to be cleaned and disinfected still feel dirty after using germicidal cleaners. Sanitizers and detergent disinfectants are not formulated to cut oil-based contaminants that occur in animal-care facilities and will not remove oily biofilm.

The fact that this biofilm prevents surfaces from being properly sanitized or disinfected isn't hard to believe. And when surfaces feel slick or are visibly dirty, they are not being sanitized or disinfected properly against disease-causing germs. **This is why degreasing is a necessary process in pet care areas no matter what germicidal cleaner you are using.**

## Cage and Kennel Degreaser backstory

I first realized the need for an animal-care degreaser the day I was called to a shelter that was using a detergent disinfectant for cleaning and disinfecting.

The kennel supervisor who called me about a cleaning issue obviously maintained a high level of sanitation, because the kennels looked quite clean. Then she asked me to take a closer look at the white concrete walls in the kennels. I could see an oily film—similar to what people leave behind after touching glass—that simply smeared around when sprayed and wiped with the detergent disinfectant. She said that the dogs, whose coats were quite oily, would rub up against the walls, creating a dirty, oily buildup on kennel surfaces that could be removed only through a lot of extra elbow grease. She also remarked that the dogs' food also left surfaces with a greasy film. I noticed everywhere people touched—door handles, gate latches, and light switches—would have a similar dirty buildup. The kennel supervisor asked me if I had a cleaner that would remove the oily biofilm easily without having to scrub so much.

That's the moment I realized our company needed to develop a user-friendly, environmentally friendly, and low-cost degreaser for the animal-care industry that smelled good and worked well. That's how Cage and Kennel Degreaser by Health Technology Professional Products Inc. came to be. It has been the leading-brand degreaser for use in animal care since 1989.

## Not all degreasers are equal

Cage and Kennel Degreaser was developed specifically for animal-care professionals based on the type of greasy buildup that accumulates in animal-care facilities. Our company recommends its use for detail cleaning of cages, kennels, floors, and walls, or anywhere a dirty, oily buildup from animals occurs.

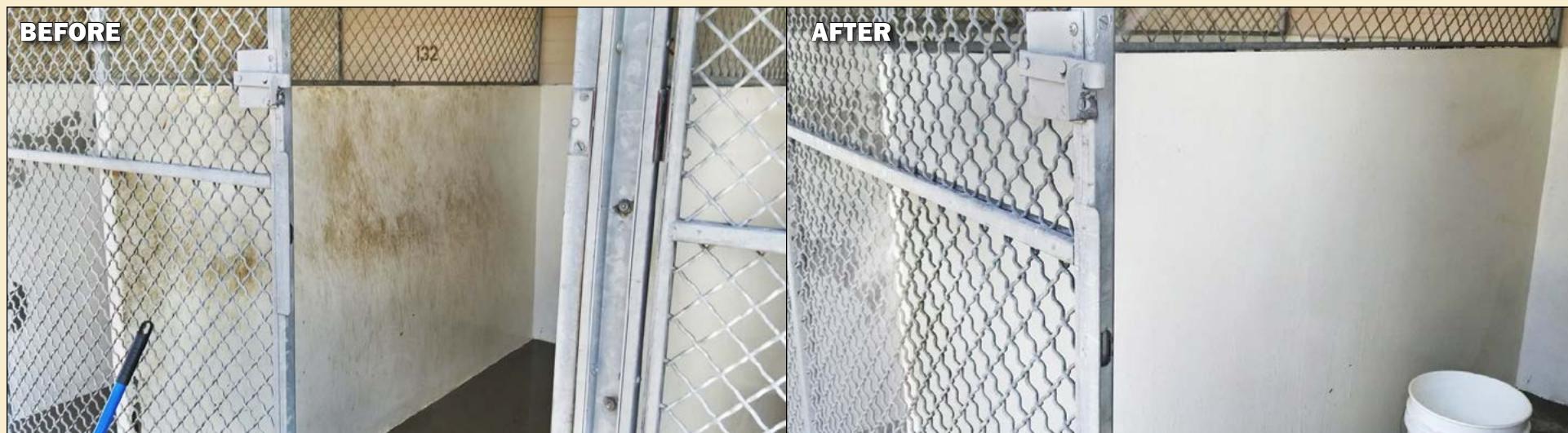
There are many different types of professional-strength

surface degreasers developed for various industries. Some are developed specifically to break up petroleum-based grease, such as what's found in the automotive industry. These types of degreasers are *not* appropriate because they are far too strong for animal-care applications and would require additional precautions to be used safely. Other degreasers are designed to remove animal fats, which create the type of buildup found in animal care facilities. Dish soap is one example of a degreaser formulated for such tasks, but it foams up too much to use on cages and kennels, causing more work. Also, if not diluted properly, it can be slippery and hard to rinse. Dish soap mixed with bleach does *not* make a germicidal degreaser.

Cage and Kennel Degreaser by Health Technology Professional Products Inc. was specially formulated for the animal care professional. The Cage and Kennel Degreaser is low cost, user and environmentally friendly degreaser that simply melts away brown oily build up with little to no scrubbing. This is the ideal product to use in between your daily cleaning with a detergent disinfectant for detail cleaning. Cage and Kennel Degreaser is a low foaming, septic safe, great smelling degreaser that's designed to be used on all washable surfaces. ●

*Chris Quinlan has over 30 years' experience in animal care sanitation and is available for consultation. Email [cquinlan@htproducts.net](mailto:cquinlan@htproducts.net) for more info.*

*This Education Center article was underwritten by Health Technology Professional Products Inc. of Riverside, Calif.*



Before using Cage and Kennel Degreaser and after.

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# DIRTY OILY Biofilm Buildup

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