

## Dog shelter design

[00:09] - Ken Thomas

When considering a design of any dog shelter, there are two key areas that need to be taken into account. One is the safety of the officers that would be working within that shelter, and the other is the welfare of the animals being contained within that shelter.

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This is our brand new dog shelter. It is designed to hold 20 dogs. We also have an ability for officers to be able to drive in to a secure area to unload dogs, which is a safe way of unloading the dog, so preventing them from escaping.

We also have a quarantine area for dogs, and we have what we call a drop-off zone, so that when the dogs are removed from the vehicle on entering the shelter, they're put into the drop-off zone initially, where we then determine whether they will go into quarantine, perhaps, or what pen they'll go into further down the shelter.

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The cleaning of the shelters is really important because it's been designed to prevent cross contamination. We make sure that each of the runs are contained in such a way that there is no ability for the cleaning to cross contaminate into another pen, thereby preventing a disease going from one dog to another.

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So the transport corridor is designed to be wide enough to allow the safe transportation of dogs and the handling of those dogs. Each of the pens that the corridors run alongside have been divided into three different sections, and these sections can be closed off by a gate, so that then allows for again, the safe handling of dogs and the minimizing of the interaction of those dogs with other dogs down the corridor further.

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The pens themselves have gates, and those gates are designed so that they open inwards. Now the reason for that is so that when the officer is placing the dog into the individual kennel, that's done so with the officers' safety in mind, and also minimizing the handling of the dog and thereby causing less stress on the animal while we're moving it along the corridor and into a pen.

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Each of those pens are individually numbered.

So the reason we have a numbering system is that it identifies that dog that we've put in with that particular number, and then that number remains with that dog through the process of impounding of the animal and the length of time that we keep the animal within the shelter.