

## An All-Hazards Approach to Basic Decontamination



When companion animals present after rescue in a disaster situation, they have mostly likely been exposed to variety of contaminants. In order to not only minimize further exposure to these contaminants by the animal, but also to provide increased environmental safety for those who may handle the animal in the immediate future, it is important that every animal be decontaminated **prior** to being introduced into the general population of your emergency shelter. These general guidelines should provide a minimum standard for decontamination protocols.

### Basic Supplies Needed

- ✓ Dawn dish soap
- ✓ Slip Leads & Catchpoles
- ✓ Cat Sacks
- ✓ Medium Bristle Brushes (long- & short-handled)
- ✓ Vinyl or thick Latex Gloves
- ✓ Water Source
- ✓ Plenty of Volunteers!

### Step-By-Step Overview

1. Secure animal appropriately (dogs on slip leads or catch poles as needed; cats in cat sacks).
  - Aggressive dogs should be restrained with catch poles & decontaminated with long-handled brushes for the safety of the animal & volunteers. If possible, safely muzzle the dog; then do so.
2. Field Decontamination (sometimes called “Rough Decontamination”) involves one-cycle - Lather, Rinse & then to Intake – whereas a Thorough Decontamination would be a two-cycle process – Lather, Rinse, Repeat & then to Intake.



### Things to Remember

- Personnel safety is Number 1!
- All non-disposable equipment will need to be properly cleaned and sanitized.
- Be sure to ‘get into’ any undercoat the animal may have.