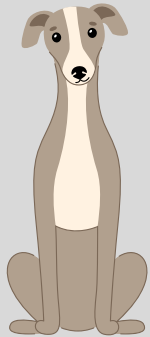


# Does Flooring Substrate Impact Kennel and Dog Cleanliness in Commercial Breeding Facilities?

The aims of this study were: 1) to assess the foot health of dogs housed in commercial breeding (CB) kennels 2) to visually assess the cleanliness of the dogs and kennels and 3) to evaluate the level of fecal contamination after routine cleaning.

## Methods



118 dogs representing 13 breeds from 5 USDA licensed CB kennels housed on 3 flooring substrates



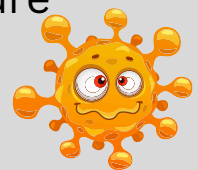
physical exam of paws, elbows, hocks, toenails, body condition score (BCS)

visual kennel cleanliness



dog cleanliness score

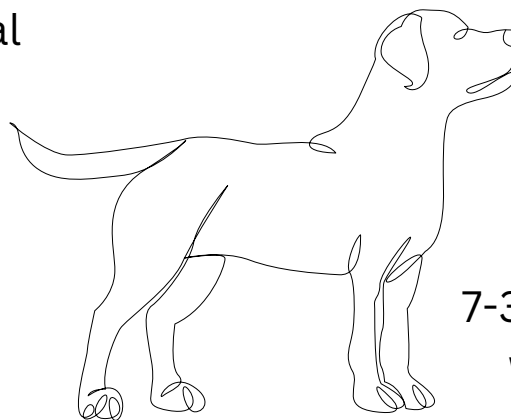
environmental swab and culture from kennel floor (*E.coli*) to assess ability to clean



## Results

BCS was **ideal** (mean 3.2)  
toenail length was normal

**minor** paw, elbow, and hock conditions identified  
matted fur (n=48)  
mild inflammation (n=12)  
hair loss (n=15)  
calluses (n=3)



dogs were clean of debris (mean 1.04)

kennels were clean of debris (mean 1.12)

7-31% environmental swabs were positive for *E.coli*

## Research Takeaways

Management is key!

All dogs and kennels appeared clean.

No significant paw, elbow, or hock conditions were identified.

**Health and cleanliness can be maintained on all substrates assessed.**