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# JAR's

## How to sanitize Pet Carriers and Cages

Proper sanitizing is vital to keep pets from spreading any illnesses among themselves or future occupants. Your pets will appreciate your efforts as well. With a bit of planning and the proper tools, you can get the job done quickly, with a minimum of disturbance to your pets.

**Remember: Washing a pet carrier with water is not enough!!!** You have to wash it with soap as well. Choose a scented soap to make the odor vaporize. You can ask your local pet store for the tools you will need to clean the carrier or cage.

### Things you will need

- 1 clean towel
- Scrub brush (or a brand new toilet brush)
- Soap
- Disinfecting solution or bleach
- Spray bottle
- Bucket of warm water

### Instructions

- Remove any bedding, food and water dishes and cat litter boxes from the cage.
- Scrub the carrier with soap and water, then disinfecting it.
- Spray disinfecting solution all over the inside of the cage. Be sure the solution is diluted properly per the instructions on the bottle.
- Scrub the cage floor and sides thoroughly with the brush, spreading the disinfecting solution / bleach throughout the

cage and leave it there for 15 minutes.

- Rinse the cage thoroughly.
- Dry the cage thoroughly before putting your pet inside.
- Provide clean, fresh water and food, fresh litter, and freshly laundered bedding, along with a toy for the pet.

If you do not have the time to clean your pet carriers you can take them to any pet services shop that offers cleaning carriers. If you do not have one in your local area then you can try to hire someone to do the job for you.

### Tips and Warnings

- Sometimes greasy dirt will actually form a protective barrier under which germs can hide. Bleach is an excellent disinfectant, but it must be diluted in water (3/4 cup to 1 gallon of water). Always remember to rinse the bleach solution thoroughly, as the chemical can irritate cats' sensitive noses. Other disinfectants such as tea tree oil and other essential oils such as eucalyptus will leave a residue behind, and can be toxic to cats.
- Vinegar and baking soda is also an effective cleaning solution for malodorous messes, but a disinfectant must be used afterward. You should also thoroughly disinfect the litter box and wash the bedding and food and water dishes if a new occupant will be placed in the cage. If you placed the pet in a carrier while cleaning his cage, the carrier should be thoroughly disinfected prior to use with a different pet.
- Never use ammonia.** The odor is similar to that of urine, and



## Jaiya's Animal Rescue

**Website:** <http://jargroup.doodlekit.com>  
**JAR Galleries:** <http://jar-galleries.doodlekit.com>  
**Blog:** <http://jarshanghai.wordpress.com>  
**e-mail:** [shanghaidogs@gmail.com](mailto:shanghaidogs@gmail.com)



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cats may soil outside the litter box in an attempt to cover the scent with their own. Be sure to wash your hands before cleaning the next cage

whenever possible, as a means to maximize the distance between people and the offending substance. However, if things get desperate, any old trash can will do.

### Always be prepared

Nature occasionally throws us some unfortunate cleaning duties. If your pet does its duty when you least expect it (regardless of having taken care of that just minutes ago when it was more convenient) it is extremely handy to have "at least" some spare, throw-away towels that can be used to line the inside of the pet carrier after you have done the emergency cleaning.

In the same way, you don't want to hide your face when everyone knows that "the smell" is coming from the barking or meowing carrier that you have, so do not forget the following things when it is time to board an airplane, bus, car or when you are coming to Adoption Day:

- Plastic baggies
- Carpet cleaner with brush
- Extra rags to line bottom of carrier
- Sponges
- Rubber gloves (can't be too careful)
- Air freshener of your choice

### What pets make

The logistics of how to dispose of the "evidence" is up to you to figure out. We recommend using bathroom trash cans or toilets



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