



Problems with grid flooring in dog kennels

Gridded, strand or wire flooring in dog kennels does not promote proper sanitation nor adequate comfort or safety for dogs and puppies. Grid-style or wire flooring frequently leads to entrapment or injury as dogs and puppies' feet become wedged in openings intended for feces. Grid flooring is designed to allow feces to pass through, but unfortunately any gap large enough for fecal matter is large enough to entrap an animal's foot or toe.

- Basic sanitation protocols require kennel owners to clean primary enclosures daily or as often as necessary to ensure that waste does not accumulate. This is preferable to requiring dogs to mash solid wastes through floor openings, as is the case with gridded flooring. Requiring animals to walk on fecal matter to mash it through floor openings in unsanitary conditions can cause disease-spreading fecal matter to become caked on both the animals and their enclosures.
- Solid flooring is the standard flooring used in the best veterinary clinics, animal hospitals and animal shelters. It is easier to clean and sanitize impermeable solid flooring than it is to remove feces that becomes caked on strand flooring. Solid flooring is also more comfortable for dogs, allowing them to play, jump and move about more naturally.
- The difficulties of moving naturally on grid flooring can cause animals to restrict their activity in order to avoid discomfort; it can also lead to anxiety, depression, frustration and other behavioral problems in animals denied solid resting surfaces.





- Grid flooring can bend and sag over time, leading to further issues with entrapment and discomfort. Wire coatings may be chewed off or crack and peel over time.
- Grid flooring increases drafts in extremely cold weather, making it difficult for dogs to maintain their body heat.
- In stacked caging situations, gridded flooring can cause fecal matter or urine to splash down on puppies in lower cages or run down the sides of the cages into lower enclosures.
- Confined dogs who are forced to live in grid or wire flooring for long periods of time frequently suffer from serious foot and leg injuries, including chronic, painful sores; infections; and cysts.



Learn more at [humanesociety.org/pupmills](https://www.humanesociety.org/pupmills).



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