

Development and Physicochemical Evaluation of Veterinary Floor Cleaning Solution and Utensil Cleaning Solution for Animal Healthcare Environments

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Abstract

Maintaining proper hygiene in veterinary healthcare environments is essential for preventing the spread of infectious diseases among animals and ensuring safe working conditions for veterinary professionals. Veterinary facilities such as hospitals, clinics, dairy farms, poultry houses, and animal shelters frequently encounter contamination from biological materials including animal excreta, feed residues, milk proteins, blood, and other organic matter. These contaminants create ideal conditions for microbial growth and biofilm formation, which can contribute to the transmission of pathogenic microorganisms between animals.

Environmental sanitation in veterinary facilities is therefore an important component of disease prevention and infection control. Floor surfaces and feeding utensils are among the most commonly contaminated objects within animal housing environments. Inadequate cleaning of these surfaces may lead to persistent microbial contamination, increased disease incidence, and reduced productivity in livestock operations.

The present study focuses on the formulation and evaluation of veterinary floor cleaning solution and veterinary utensil cleaning solution designed specifically for sanitation of animal healthcare environments. The formulations were developed using a combination of surfactants, antimicrobial agents, solvents, and stabilizing components to achieve effective removal of organic contaminants while maintaining safety and surface compatibility. Benzalkonium chloride was used as the primary antimicrobial agent due to its broad-spectrum activity against bacteria, fungi, and certain viruses.

The prepared formulations were evaluated using physicochemical parameters including pH determination, dilution stability studies, and storage stability testing. These tests were performed to assess formulation consistency, compatibility with water dilution, and long-term stability under different storage conditions. The results demonstrated that the developed formulations exhibited appropriate pH ranges suitable for cleaning applications, maintained stability at various dilution levels, and showed no evidence of precipitation or phase separation during storage. The findings suggest that the developed veterinary hygiene formulations possess promising cleaning efficiency and stability characteristics suitable for application in veterinary healthcare environments. These formulations may contribute to improved environmental sanitation and infection control in veterinary facilities.

Keywords: Veterinary hygiene, floor cleaning solution, utensil cleaning solution, benzalkonium chloride, surfactants, sanitation.

Introduction

Veterinary healthcare environments require strict hygiene management to ensure the health and safety of animals as well as veterinary professionals. Animals housed in veterinary clinics, farms, shelters, and research facilities are frequently exposed to microorganisms present in their surroundings. Floors, cages, feeding bowls, grooming equipment, and medical instruments can accumulate organic contaminants such as fecal matter, urine, saliva, feed residues, milk proteins, blood, and environmental debris. These materials serve as nutrients for microbial growth and create favorable conditions for the proliferation of pathogenic microorganisms. If not properly cleaned and disinfected, these contaminated surfaces may become reservoirs for infectious agents capable of spreading diseases among animals.

Environmental sanitation therefore represents a critical component of veterinary infection control. Regular cleaning and disinfection of animal housing areas, veterinary clinics, and farm facilities help reduce microbial load and prevent the transmission of infectious diseases. In addition to protecting animal health, effective sanitation also improves productivity in livestock operations and reduces the risk of zoonotic infections that can be transmitted from animals to humans. Consequently, the development of effective cleaning systems specifically designed for veterinary environments has become an important area of research in veterinary hygiene and sanitation.

Floor surfaces are among the most frequently contaminated areas in veterinary facilities. Animals often come into direct contact with floors while resting, feeding, or moving within housing areas. Veterinary floors may be exposed to large amounts of organic matter such as manure, spilled feed, bedding materials, and bodily fluids. These contaminants can harbor microorganisms including bacteria, fungi, and viruses that contribute to disease transmission. Therefore, effective floor cleaning solutions must possess strong detergency to remove organic residues as well as antimicrobial activity to eliminate pathogenic microorganisms.

Similarly, feeding utensils and equipment used in veterinary environments are also highly susceptible to contamination. Feeding bowls, water containers, dairy utensils, and grooming tools frequently come into contact with animal saliva, food particles, milk residues, and microbial contaminants. Inadequate cleaning of these utensils may lead to microbial growth and biofilm formation on their surfaces. Biofilms are complex microbial communities that adhere to surfaces and are often resistant to conventional cleaning procedures. As a result, proper cleaning and sanitization of veterinary utensils are essential to prevent microbial contamination and maintain animal health.

Cleaning formulations generally consist of surfactants, antimicrobial agents, solvents, and other functional ingredients. Surfactants play a crucial role in cleaning processes by reducing surface tension and facilitating the removal of dirt, grease, and organic debris from surfaces. These compounds possess both hydrophilic and hydrophobic regions, allowing them to interact with water and oily substances simultaneously. As a result, surfactants enable the emulsification and dispersion of contaminants, making them easier to remove during cleaning.

In addition to surfactants, antimicrobial agents are often incorporated into cleaning formulations to provide disinfectant properties. Benzalkonium chloride, a quaternary ammonium compound, is widely used in sanitation products due to its broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity against bacteria, fungi, and certain viruses. This compound acts by disrupting microbial cell membranes, leading to leakage of cellular contents and ultimately cell death. When combined with surfactants, benzalkonium chloride can enhance the overall effectiveness of cleaning formulations by simultaneously removing organic matter and reducing microbial contamination.

Another important factor in cleaning formulation development is compatibility with surfaces and materials commonly used in veterinary facilities. Floors in veterinary clinics and animal shelters are often made of materials such as concrete, tiles, or polymer coatings, while utensils are commonly composed of stainless steel, plastic, or aluminum. Cleaning agents must therefore be formulated in a way that effectively removes contaminants without causing corrosion, discoloration, or material degradation. Additionally, cleaning formulations should be safe for animals and handlers and should not leave harmful chemical residues after use.

Despite the availability of numerous commercial cleaning products, many formulations are primarily designed for household or general industrial applications rather than veterinary environments. Veterinary facilities often require

specialized cleaning agents capable of removing complex organic contaminants while maintaining antimicrobial efficacy and environmental safety. Furthermore, veterinary sanitation products must be capable of functioning effectively

The present study focuses on the development and evaluation of veterinary floor cleaning solution and veterinary utensil cleaning solution designed specifically for animal healthcare environments. The formulations were prepared using selected surfactants, antimicrobial agents, solvents, and stabilizing components to achieve optimal cleaning efficiency and microbial control. The prepared formulations were evaluated for physicochemical parameters including pH determination, dilution stability, and storage stability in order to assess their suitability for veterinary sanitation applications. The findings of this study aim to contribute to the development of effective sanitation products for veterinary healthcare environments, thereby improving hygiene management practices and reducing the risk of infectious disease transmission among animals.

Veterinary Environmental Hygiene

Veterinary environmental hygiene refers to the systematic maintenance of cleanliness, sanitation, and microbial control within animal healthcare and animal housing environments. Veterinary facilities such as hospitals, clinics, dairy farms, poultry houses, kennels, animal shelters, and veterinary laboratories are constantly exposed to various biological contaminants originating from animals and their surroundings. These contaminants include feces, urine, saliva, blood, hair, feed residues, bedding materials, and other organic matter. If not properly managed, these materials accumulate on environmental surfaces such as floors, cages, feeding utensils, water troughs, grooming tools, and veterinary equipment. The presence of such organic contaminants creates an ideal environment for the growth and proliferation of microorganisms.

Veterinary environmental hygiene therefore plays a critical role in preventing the spread of infectious diseases among animals and ensuring safe working conditions for veterinary personnel. In environments where animals are housed in close proximity, microorganisms can easily spread through direct contact, contaminated surfaces, shared equipment, and environmental exposure. Poor hygiene conditions may result in increased microbial load within the facility, leading to outbreaks of bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic diseases.

The concept of veterinary environmental hygiene encompasses several essential processes including cleaning, disinfection, sterilization, and waste management. Cleaning refers to the physical removal of dirt, organic debris, and contaminants from surfaces using water and cleaning agents. This step is crucial because organic matter such as feces and food residues can protect microorganisms from disinfectants. By removing organic contaminants, cleaning significantly reduces microbial populations and improves the effectiveness of subsequent disinfection procedures.

Disinfection is the process of eliminating pathogenic microorganisms from surfaces using chemical disinfectants. Disinfectants function by damaging microbial cell membranes, denaturing proteins, or interfering with metabolic processes essential for microbial survival. Effective disinfectants used in veterinary sanitation include quaternary ammonium compounds, chlorine-based disinfectants, phenolic compounds, and alcohol-based solutions. These disinfectants are often incorporated into cleaning formulations to provide both detergency and antimicrobial activity.

Sterilization is a more intensive process that involves the complete destruction of all forms of microbial life, including bacterial spores. Although sterilization is mainly applied to veterinary surgical instruments and medical equipment, environmental hygiene practices ensure that surfaces remain free from excessive microbial contamination that could compromise sterile procedures.

Another significant component of veterinary environmental hygiene is waste management. Veterinary environments generate various types of waste including animal excreta, bedding materials, medical waste, and biological fluids. Improper disposal of these materials can lead to environmental contamination and increased microbial proliferation. Proper waste handling, disposal, and sanitation practices are therefore essential to maintain hygienic conditions.

Biofilm formation is another major challenge associated with veterinary environmental hygiene. Biofilms are structured microbial communities that attach to surfaces and produce a protective extracellular matrix. This matrix

shields microorganisms from environmental stress, disinfectants, and antimicrobial agents, making them difficult to remove. Biofilms can develop on floors, water troughs, feeding utensils, cages, and veterinary equipment, especially in moist environments rich in organic nutrients. Once established, biofilms can act as persistent reservoirs of infection within veterinary facilities.

Effective veterinary environmental hygiene strategies therefore require the use of cleaning agents capable of removing organic debris while simultaneously reducing microbial populations. Surfactants present in cleaning formulations help dissolve grease, oils, and organic materials, enabling easier removal during cleaning procedures. Antimicrobial agents incorporated into these formulations help destroy microorganisms that remain after the cleaning process.

Proper hygiene practices also contribute significantly to animal welfare. Animals kept in clean and hygienic environments are less likely to experience infections, skin diseases, and respiratory problems. Accumulation of waste and contaminants in animal housing areas can produce unpleasant odors and release harmful gases such as ammonia, which may negatively affect animal health and comfort. Regular cleaning and sanitation help maintain a healthier environment for animals, promoting improved growth, productivity, and overall well-being.

In livestock production systems such as dairy farms, poultry farms, and pig farms, environmental hygiene directly influences productivity and economic outcomes. Poor sanitation can lead to increased incidence of infectious diseases, resulting in decreased milk yield, reduced egg production, impaired growth rates, and increased veterinary treatment costs. Maintaining proper environmental hygiene is therefore essential for ensuring sustainable livestock production and minimizing economic losses.

Veterinary environmental hygiene also has significant implications for public health. Many microorganisms present in animal environments are zoonotic pathogens capable of infecting humans. These pathogens can be transmitted through direct contact with animals or indirectly through contaminated surfaces, utensils, or equipment. Veterinary staff, farm workers, and animal handlers are particularly at risk of exposure to such pathogens. Effective sanitation practices reduce the risk of zoonotic disease transmission and contribute to safer working conditions.

The development of specialized veterinary cleaning formulations is therefore essential to support effective hygiene management in animal healthcare environments. Such formulations must possess strong detergency to remove organic contaminants, antimicrobial activity to reduce microbial populations, and chemical stability to maintain performance during storage and dilution. Additionally, cleaning agents must be compatible with materials commonly used in veterinary facilities, including concrete floors, ceramic tiles, stainless steel utensils, and plastic equipment.

Overall, veterinary environmental hygiene represents a fundamental aspect of veterinary healthcare and animal management. By maintaining clean and sanitized environments, veterinary professionals can significantly reduce the risk of disease transmission, enhance animal welfare, and protect human health. The development and evaluation of effective veterinary cleaning solutions therefore play an important role in improving sanitation practices within animal healthcare facilities.

Importance of Sanitation in Veterinary Facilities

Sanitation is one of the most critical components of veterinary healthcare management, as it directly influences disease prevention, animal welfare, productivity, and environmental safety. Veterinary facilities often house animals in confined or semi-confined spaces where microorganisms can easily spread through contaminated surfaces, shared equipment, and environmental exposure. Without proper sanitation practices, these environments can become reservoirs of pathogenic microorganisms capable of causing infections in animals and humans.

One of the primary reasons sanitation is essential in veterinary facilities is the prevention of infectious disease transmission. Animals frequently carry microorganisms on their skin, fur, respiratory secretions, and gastrointestinal

tract. When animals shed these microorganisms into their environment through feces, urine, saliva, or other biological materials, the surrounding surfaces become contaminated. Pathogens such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites can survive on these surfaces for extended periods, increasing the likelihood of infection in other animals that come into contact with the contaminated environment.

Veterinary facilities often treat animals suffering from infectious diseases, making sanitation even more critical. Inadequate cleaning and disinfection practices may allow pathogens to persist within the environment, leading to repeated infections or outbreaks among animals. Proper sanitation procedures help break the chain of infection by removing contaminants and destroying microorganisms before they can spread.

Another important aspect of sanitation is the removal of organic matter from environmental surfaces. Organic materials such as manure, spilled feed, bedding materials, and biological fluids can accumulate rapidly in animal housing areas. These substances not only create unpleasant odors but also serve as nutrient sources for microbial growth. When organic matter remains on surfaces, it may also reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants by shielding microorganisms from chemical action. Therefore, thorough cleaning using appropriate detergents is necessary before applying disinfectants.

Sanitation practices also contribute significantly to maintaining animal welfare. Animals living in unhygienic conditions may experience increased stress, discomfort, and susceptibility to infections. Dirty and contaminated environments can cause skin irritation, dermatitis, respiratory problems, and gastrointestinal infections in animals. Maintaining clean living conditions helps reduce these risks and promotes healthier animals.

In livestock production systems, sanitation is closely associated with productivity and economic sustainability. Dairy farms, poultry farms, and pig farms rely heavily on strict hygiene practices to maintain healthy animal populations. Poor sanitation can lead to disease outbreaks that negatively affect production parameters such as milk yield, egg production, feed efficiency, and reproductive performance. Consequently, maintaining proper sanitation is essential for ensuring optimal productivity and minimizing economic losses.

Sanitation also plays a vital role in protecting human health. Many microorganisms present in veterinary environments are zoonotic pathogens capable of infecting humans. Examples include *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli*, *Campylobacter*, and *Staphylococcus* species. Veterinary professionals, farm workers, and animal caretakers may be exposed to these pathogens through contaminated surfaces or equipment. Regular cleaning and disinfection of veterinary facilities help reduce the risk of zoonotic disease transmission and protect individuals who work closely with animals.

Another important factor in veterinary sanitation is the prevention of microbial biofilm formation. Biofilms are structured communities of microorganisms that adhere to surfaces and produce protective extracellular matrices. Once established, biofilms become highly resistant to cleaning agents and disinfectants. Feeding utensils, water troughs, and floor surfaces are particularly susceptible to biofilm formation. Effective sanitation practices involving regular cleaning and appropriate disinfectants are necessary to prevent biofilm development.

The use of specially formulated veterinary cleaning solutions can greatly enhance sanitation effectiveness. These formulations typically contain surfactants that facilitate the removal of dirt, grease, and organic matter from surfaces. Antimicrobial agents such as quaternary ammonium compounds provide additional protection by destroying microorganisms that remain after cleaning. When properly formulated, these cleaning solutions can significantly improve hygiene standards in veterinary facilities.

Sources of Contamination in Animal Housing Environments

Animal housing environments are highly vulnerable to contamination due to the continuous presence of animals, organic waste, feed materials, moisture, and microbial populations. Veterinary clinics, livestock farms, kennels, shelters, and poultry houses often experience a constant accumulation of contaminants that originate from animals and their surrounding environment. These contaminants may include biological waste, microorganisms, dust particles, feed residues, and environmental pollutants. If not properly managed through regular cleaning and sanitation, these

contaminants can accumulate on surfaces such as floors, cages, feeding utensils, water troughs, and veterinary equipment, thereby increasing the risk of disease transmission among animals.

Contamination in animal housing environments is influenced by several factors including animal activity, environmental conditions, management practices, and hygiene standards. The most common sources of contamination include animal excreta, feed residues, bedding materials, airborne particles, water sources, human activities, and pests. Understanding these contamination sources is essential for designing effective cleaning protocols and selecting appropriate veterinary cleaning formulations.

Animal Excreta and Biological Secretions

Animal excreta, particularly feces and urine, represent one of the most significant sources of contamination in animal housing environments. Animals continuously release these waste products as part of normal physiological processes. Fecal matter contains a wide range of microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Many of these microorganisms may be pathogenic and capable of causing infectious diseases in animals. When fecal matter accumulates on floors, bedding materials, or cages, it creates an ideal environment for microbial growth.

Urine also contributes significantly to environmental contamination. Urine can spread across flooring surfaces and mix with other organic materials such as bedding and feed residues. The decomposition of urine leads to the formation of ammonia and other nitrogenous compounds, which not only produce unpleasant odors but may also irritate the respiratory tract of animals and workers in the facility.

In addition to feces and urine, animals release other biological secretions such as saliva, nasal discharge, blood, and skin debris. These materials may contain microorganisms that contaminate environmental surfaces. For example, animals suffering from respiratory infections may spread pathogens through nasal secretions, while wounds or injuries may release contaminated blood and tissue fluids.

Feed Residues and Food Waste

Feed materials and food residues are another important source of contamination in animal housing environments. During feeding, animals often spill or leave behind portions of feed around feeding areas. These leftover feed particles accumulate on floors, feeding bowls, troughs, and surrounding surfaces. Feed residues typically contain carbohydrates, proteins, and fats that provide nutrients for microbial growth. When these materials remain in the environment for extended periods, they can support the growth of bacteria and fungi. This microbial proliferation may contaminate feeding utensils and increase the risk of gastrointestinal infections in animals. In livestock and dairy operations, milk residues may also contribute to environmental contamination. Milk contains sugars and proteins that can support rapid bacterial growth if not properly cleaned from equipment and surfaces. Therefore, regular cleaning of feeding areas and utensils is essential to minimize contamination.

Bedding Materials and Litter

Bedding materials such as straw, hay, sawdust, wood shavings, and other litter materials are commonly used in animal housing to provide comfort and absorb moisture. Although these materials improve animal welfare by providing a soft and dry surface, they can also become sources of contamination if not properly maintained. Over time, bedding materials accumulate feces, urine, spilled feed, and hair from animals. Moist bedding creates a favorable environment for microbial growth within bedding materials, increasing the risk of disease transmission among animals. Additionally, decomposing bedding materials may produce unpleasant odors and release gases such as ammonia and methane, which can negatively affect air quality in the facility. Regular replacement and proper disposal of bedding materials are therefore essential components of maintaining hygienic conditions in animal housing environments.

Airborne Dust and Particulate Matter

Dust and airborne particles also play a significant role in environmental contamination within animal housing facilities. Dust may originate from feed particles, bedding materials, dried fecal matter, and animal hair or skin flakes. When animals move within their housing areas, these particles can become airborne and spread throughout the facility. Airborne dust often carries microorganisms including bacteria and fungal spores. These microorganisms may settle on surfaces such as floors, cages, feeding utensils, and veterinary instruments, thereby contributing to environmental contamination. In poultry houses and livestock barns, high dust levels may also cause respiratory irritation in animals and workers. Proper ventilation systems, regular cleaning, and dust control measures are therefore important for minimizing airborne contamination in animal housing environments.

Water Sources and Moisture Accumulation

Water used for drinking, cleaning, and animal bathing can also contribute to contamination if not properly managed. Drinking bowls, water troughs, and water pipelines may harbor microorganisms if they are not regularly cleaned and disinfected. Standing water in poorly drained areas may become contaminated with organic matter and support microbial growth. Moist environments provide favorable conditions for the proliferation of bacteria, fungi, and algae. Wet floors, damp bedding materials, and poorly ventilated areas may therefore serve as reservoirs for microbial contamination. Maintaining proper drainage systems and ensuring regular cleaning of water containers help reduce these risks.

Human Activities and Equipment

Human activity within veterinary facilities is another potential source of contamination. Veterinary staff, animal handlers, and visitors may carry microorganisms on their hands, clothing, footwear, and equipment. These microorganisms can be transferred to animal housing areas through routine activities such as feeding, cleaning, grooming, and medical treatment. Veterinary equipment such as grooming tools, feeding utensils, cages, and examination tables can also act as sources of contamination if not properly cleaned and disinfected after use. Cross-contamination may occur when the same equipment is used for multiple animals without adequate sanitation.

Pests and Vectors

Insects, rodents, and other pests are important contributors to contamination in animal housing environments. Flies, mosquitoes, cockroaches, and rodents are attracted to food residues, waste materials, and moist conditions commonly found in animal facilities. These pests can carry pathogenic microorganisms on their bodies and transfer them to surfaces, feed supplies, and animal housing areas. Rodents may also contaminate feed storage areas and water sources through their droppings and urine. Effective pest control strategies are therefore necessary to maintain hygienic conditions and reduce contamination risks.

Microbial Risks in Veterinary Facilities

Veterinary facilities such as animal hospitals, clinics, livestock farms, kennels, poultry houses, and research laboratories are environments where animals with various health conditions are frequently housed and treated. These environments are often exposed to a wide range of microorganisms originating from animals, animal waste, contaminated equipment, and environmental sources. The presence of these microorganisms poses significant microbial risks that can affect animal health, human health, and the overall hygiene status of veterinary facilities.

Microbial contamination in veterinary environments primarily involves bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. These microorganisms may be pathogenic or opportunistic and can survive on environmental surfaces such as floors, cages, feeding utensils, veterinary instruments, and water containers. If proper sanitation measures are not implemented, these microorganisms can multiply rapidly and spread within the facility, increasing the risk of infectious disease transmission.

One of the major microbial risks in veterinary facilities is the presence of pathogenic bacteria. Bacterial species such as *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella*, *Staphylococcus*, *Streptococcus*, and *Pseudomonas* are commonly found in animal housing environments. These bacteria may originate from animal feces, urine, skin, respiratory secretions, and contaminated feed materials. Once introduced into the environment, they can persist on surfaces for extended periods and infect other animals through direct contact or ingestion of contaminated materials.

Another important microbial risk involves viral pathogens. Many viruses affecting animals are highly contagious and can spread rapidly within veterinary facilities. Viral infections such as canine parvovirus, avian influenza, and foot-and-mouth disease may be transmitted through contaminated surfaces, equipment, or airborne particles. Because viruses can survive on surfaces and remain infectious for long periods, inadequate sanitation practices may facilitate the spread of viral diseases among animals.

Fungal contamination also represents a significant concern in veterinary environments. Fungi such as *Aspergillus*, *Candida*, and *Microsporum* species can grow in moist and poorly ventilated areas. These fungi may contaminate bedding materials, feed storage areas, and ventilation systems. Fungal spores can become airborne and infect animals through inhalation or skin contact, leading to respiratory infections or dermatological conditions such as ringworm. Parasitic organisms may also contribute to microbial risks in veterinary facilities. Parasites such as protozoa and helminths can be transmitted through contaminated feces, bedding materials, or water sources. Parasitic infections may spread rapidly among animals if sanitation practices are inadequate. Regular cleaning and proper waste management are therefore essential to minimize the risk of parasitic contamination.

Another important aspect of microbial risk in veterinary facilities is the formation of biofilms. Biofilms are communities of microorganisms that attach to surfaces and produce protective extracellular matrices. These biofilms can develop on floors, water pipelines, feeding utensils, and veterinary equipment. Microorganisms within biofilms are more resistant to disinfectants and antimicrobial agents, making them difficult to eliminate. As a result, biofilms can act as persistent reservoirs of infection within veterinary environments.

The spread of antimicrobial-resistant microorganisms is also an emerging concern in veterinary facilities. Frequent use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine can contribute to the development of resistant bacterial strains. These resistant microorganisms may contaminate environmental surfaces and equipment, posing risks to both animals and humans. Proper hygiene practices and controlled use of antimicrobial agents are therefore essential to prevent the spread of resistant pathogens.

Zoonotic transmission is another significant microbial risk associated with veterinary environments. Zoonotic pathogens are microorganisms that can be transmitted from animals to humans. Veterinary professionals, animal handlers, and farm workers are particularly vulnerable to exposure through contact with contaminated surfaces, animal secretions, or infected animals. Microorganisms such as *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and certain fungal species can cause infections in humans if proper hygiene measures are not followed. Environmental factors such as temperature, humidity, and organic matter accumulation can further influence microbial growth in veterinary facilities. Warm and moist environments promote microbial proliferation, especially when organic materials such as feces, feed residues, and bedding are present. Poor ventilation and inadequate cleaning can therefore exacerbate microbial contamination. Effective sanitation practices are essential to reduce microbial risks in veterinary facilities. Regular cleaning of floors, cages, feeding utensils, and veterinary equipment helps remove organic matter and reduce microbial load. The use of appropriate disinfectants further ensures the elimination of pathogenic microorganisms. Additionally, proper waste disposal, pest control, and ventilation systems contribute to maintaining hygienic conditions.

Cleaning Agents Used in Veterinary Hygiene

Cleaning agents play a crucial role in maintaining sanitation and environmental hygiene in veterinary facilities. Animal hospitals, farms, kennels, shelters, and veterinary laboratories require effective cleaning systems to remove organic matter, eliminate pathogenic microorganisms, and prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Veterinary environments are often contaminated with animal waste, feed residues, biological fluids, and environmental pollutants, which can serve as sources of microbial growth if not properly removed.

Cleaning agents used in veterinary hygiene are typically formulated with multiple components that work together to remove dirt, dissolve organic matter, and destroy harmful microorganisms. These formulations are designed to provide both cleaning and disinfecting properties while being safe for use around animals and compatible with various surfaces such as concrete floors, stainless steel utensils, plastic equipment, and ceramic tiles. The major components of veterinary cleaning formulations generally include surfactants, antimicrobial agents, and solvents. Each component performs a specific function in enhancing the overall effectiveness of the cleaning process.

a) Surfactants

Surfactants, or surface-active agents, are one of the most important ingredients in cleaning formulations used in veterinary hygiene. Surfactants reduce the surface tension of water, allowing the cleaning solution to spread easily across surfaces and penetrate dirt, grease, and organic contaminants. By lowering surface tension, surfactants improve the ability of water to wet surfaces and remove accumulated debris. In veterinary facilities, surfaces are often contaminated with complex organic materials such as feces, urine, blood, hair, and feed residues. These materials may contain fats, proteins, and other substances that strongly adhere to surfaces. Surfactants help break down these materials by emulsifying oils and suspending dirt particles in water, making them easier to remove during washing and rinsing.

Surfactants function through their unique molecular structure, which contains both hydrophilic (water-attracting) and hydrophobic (water-repelling) portions. The hydrophobic portion attaches to oily or greasy contaminants, while the hydrophilic portion interacts with water. This dual action allows surfactants to detach contaminants from surfaces and disperse them into the cleaning solution.

Several types of surfactants are commonly used in veterinary cleaning formulations:

Anionic surfactants are widely used due to their strong detergency and foaming properties. These surfactants carry a negative charge and are highly effective at removing organic dirt and grease. Examples include sodium lauryl sulfate and linear alkylbenzene sulfonate. Nonionic surfactants do not carry a charge and are particularly effective at removing oily contaminants. They are often used in combination with other surfactants to enhance cleaning efficiency and improve formulation stability. Cationic surfactants, such as quaternary ammonium compounds, possess antimicrobial properties in addition to cleaning ability. These surfactants carry a positive charge and can interact with negatively charged microbial cell membranes, leading to microbial destruction.

Amphoteric surfactants contain both positive and negative charges depending on the pH of the solution. These surfactants are mild and compatible with many other ingredients, making them suitable for formulations that require gentle cleaning properties. In veterinary hygiene applications, surfactants are essential for removing organic matter before the disinfection process. Because organic materials can protect microorganisms from disinfectants, thorough cleaning with surfactants is necessary to ensure effective microbial control.

b) Antimicrobial Agents

Antimicrobial agents are chemical substances included in veterinary cleaning formulations to destroy or inhibit the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and certain parasites. These agents play a vital role in reducing microbial contamination and preventing the spread of infectious diseases in animal housing environments. Veterinary facilities frequently encounter pathogenic microorganisms that originate from animal waste, respiratory secretions, contaminated feed, and environmental sources. If these microorganisms are not effectively eliminated, they may spread rapidly among animals and potentially infect humans working within the facility. Antimicrobial agents function through several mechanisms depending on their chemical nature. Some agents disrupt microbial cell membranes, causing leakage of cellular contents and cell death. Others interfere with metabolic processes or denature essential proteins required for microbial survival.

Common antimicrobial agents used in veterinary hygiene formulations include:

Quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs) are widely used disinfectants due to their broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity. These compounds are effective against many bacteria and fungi and also possess surface-cleaning properties. Chlorine-based disinfectants, such as sodium hypochlorite, are highly effective against a wide range of microorganisms including bacteria, viruses, and fungi. These agents act by oxidizing microbial cell components and disrupting cellular structures. Phenolic compounds are effective disinfectants commonly used in veterinary environments. They disrupt microbial cell membranes and denature proteins, leading to microbial death. Hydrogen peroxide is another antimicrobial agent used for disinfection. It acts as a strong oxidizing agent that destroys microorganisms through the production of reactive oxygen species. In veterinary hygiene applications, antimicrobial agents must be carefully selected to ensure effectiveness against target pathogens while minimizing toxicity to animals and humans. Proper concentration and contact time are essential to achieve optimal antimicrobial activity.

c) Solvents

Solvents are another important component of veterinary cleaning formulations. Solvents help dissolve or disperse various substances such as oils, fats, and organic residues that may accumulate on environmental surfaces. By dissolving these materials, solvents enhance the overall cleaning efficiency of the formulation. Water is the most commonly used solvent in veterinary cleaning products. It acts as a medium that dissolves other ingredients in the formulation and facilitates the removal of dirt and contaminants from surfaces. Water also helps distribute surfactants and antimicrobial agents evenly during the cleaning process. In addition to water, other solvents may be included to improve the solubility of certain ingredients and enhance cleaning performance. Alcohol-based solvents, such as ethanol or isopropanol, may be used for their ability to dissolve grease and provide mild antimicrobial effects. Solvents also contribute to the stability of cleaning formulations by ensuring that active ingredients remain properly dissolved and evenly distributed. This stability is important for maintaining consistent cleaning performance during storage and use. In veterinary cleaning applications, solvents must be carefully selected to ensure compatibility with other ingredients and safety for animals and facility surfaces. Non-toxic and environmentally friendly solvents are generally preferred in formulations intended for use in animal housing environments.

The materials and methods section describes the chemicals, equipment, formulation procedures, and evaluation techniques used in the development and assessment of the veterinary floor cleaning solution and utensil cleaning solution. The formulations were designed to effectively remove organic contaminants, reduce microbial load, and maintain hygienic conditions in veterinary environments such as animal housing facilities, clinics, and livestock farms. The experimental procedures were conducted under controlled laboratory conditions to ensure accuracy, reproducibility, and reliability of the results.

Various chemicals and raw materials were used in the formulation of the veterinary floor cleaner and utensil cleaning solution. These materials were selected based on their cleaning efficiency, antimicrobial properties, compatibility with surfaces, and safety for use in veterinary environments.

Surfactants

Surfactants were included in the formulations to reduce surface tension, enhance wetting ability, and facilitate the removal of dirt, grease, and organic residues from surfaces. The surfactants used in the formulations included sodium lauryl sulfate and nonionic surfactants, which provide effective detergency and foaming characteristics. These surfactants help emulsify oils and suspend dirt particles in water, allowing them to be easily removed during cleaning.

Solvents

Solvents were used to dissolve formulation ingredients and improve the removal of oily and greasy contaminants. Water served as the primary solvent due to its availability, safety, and compatibility with other formulation components. Small quantities of alcohol-based solvents were also included in some formulations to enhance the solubility of certain active ingredients and improve antimicrobial effectiveness.

Fragrance and Additives

Fragrance agents were added to improve the sensory properties of the cleaning solutions and reduce unpleasant odors commonly associated with animal housing environments. Stabilizers and preservatives were also incorporated to maintain the chemical stability of the formulations during storage and use.

Raw Materials Used

The following materials were used in the formulation process:

- Sodium lauryl sulfate
- Nonionic surfactant
- Quaternary ammonium compound
- Phenolic disinfectant
- Ethanol or isopropyl alcohol
- Distilled water
- Fragrance
- Preservatives

All chemicals used in the study were of laboratory grade and obtained from reliable chemical suppliers.

Equipment

Various laboratory equipment and instruments were used for the preparation and evaluation of the cleaning formulations. These included:

- Magnetic stirrer
- Measuring cylinders
- Beakers and glass containers
- Digital pH meter
- Analytical balance
- Viscometer
- Thermometer
- Microbiological culture plates
- Incubator

The equipment used was properly cleaned and calibrated before conducting the experiments to ensure accurate measurements.

Preparation of Veterinary Floor Cleaning Solution

The veterinary floor cleaning solution was prepared using a simple mixing method. Initially, a measured quantity of distilled water was taken in a clean beaker. Sodium lauryl sulfate was gradually added to the water while stirring continuously using a magnetic stirrer. This step ensured complete dissolution of the surfactant and uniform mixing. After the surfactant was fully dissolved, the antimicrobial agent such as a quaternary ammonium compound was slowly added to the mixture. Continuous stirring was maintained to achieve a homogeneous solution. Subsequently, a small amount of solvent such as ethanol was incorporated to improve the solubility of the active ingredients and enhance cleaning performance.

Fragrance and preservatives were then added in small quantities to improve the stability and sensory characteristics of the formulation. The mixture was stirred thoroughly until a clear and uniform solution was obtained. The final formulation was stored in clean, airtight containers for further evaluation.

Preparation of Veterinary Utensil Cleaning Solution

The utensil cleaning solution was formulated using a similar procedure with slight modifications to enhance grease removal and cleaning efficiency for feeding utensils and equipment. Distilled water was first taken in a beaker and heated slightly to improve the dissolution of surfactants. Sodium lauryl sulfate and a nonionic surfactant were gradually added while stirring continuously. The combination of these surfactants provided improved detergency and grease-removal capability. After complete dissolution of the surfactants, antimicrobial agents were incorporated into the mixture to provide disinfecting properties. Alcohol-based solvents were then added to enhance the removal of oily residues commonly present on feeding utensils and equipment. Fragrance and stabilizing agents were finally incorporated into the formulation. The mixture was stirred thoroughly until a homogeneous solution was obtained. The prepared utensil cleaning solution was stored in labeled containers for further testing and evaluation.

Evaluation of Formulations

The prepared cleaning formulations were evaluated using several physicochemical and antimicrobial parameters to determine their effectiveness and suitability for veterinary hygiene applications.

pH Determination-The pH of the formulations was measured using a calibrated digital pH meter. The pH value is an important parameter that influences cleaning efficiency, antimicrobial activity, and compatibility with surfaces.

Foam Test-The foaming ability of the cleaning solutions was evaluated by shaking a measured quantity of the solution in a graduated cylinder and observing the volume and stability of foam produced. Adequate foam formation indicates effective surfactant activity.

Cleaning Efficiency-Cleaning efficiency was assessed by applying the formulation to contaminated surfaces containing dirt, grease, and organic materials. The ability of the formulation to remove these contaminants was visually observed and compared.

Stability Study-The stability of the formulations was evaluated by storing the samples at room temperature for a specified period and observing any changes in color, odor, phase separation, or precipitation. Stable formulations maintain their physical and chemical properties over time.

Antimicrobial Activity-The antimicrobial effectiveness of the cleaning solutions was tested using standard microbiological techniques. Samples of the formulations were applied to microbial cultures to observe their ability to inhibit microbial growth. The reduction in microbial colonies indicated the disinfecting capability of the formulations.

Formulation of Veterinary Floor Cleaning Solution

The veterinary floor cleaning solution was developed to effectively remove dirt, organic debris, animal waste residues, and microbial contaminants from floor surfaces in veterinary facilities. Floors in animal housing environments are frequently contaminated with feces, urine, feed residues, and biological secretions, making them potential sources of infection. Therefore, the floor cleaning formulation was designed to possess strong cleaning ability along with antimicrobial activity.

The formulation process involved dissolving surfactants and antimicrobial agents in distilled water under continuous stirring to obtain a homogeneous solution. The surfactants helped in loosening dirt and grease from surfaces, while antimicrobial agents ensured microbial control. Solvents and fragrance agents were added to enhance cleaning efficiency and improve product acceptability.

Composition of Veterinary Floor Cleaning Solution

S. No	Ingredient	Function	Quantity (%)
1	Sodium Lauryl Sulfate	Surfactant / Detergent	5
2	Nonionic Surfactant	Cleaning enhancer	3
3	Quaternary Ammonium Compound	Antimicrobial agent	2
4	Phenolic compound	Disinfectant	1
5	Ethanol / Isopropyl alcohol	Solvent	2
6	Fragrance	Odor control	0.5
7	Preservative	Product stability	0.5
8	Distilled Water	Vehicle / Solvent	q.s to 100

Method of Preparation

A measured quantity of distilled water was taken in a clean beaker and stirred using a magnetic stirrer. Sodium lauryl sulfate was gradually added to the water with continuous stirring to ensure complete dissolution. After the surfactant was fully dispersed, the nonionic surfactant was incorporated to improve detergency and cleaning efficiency.

The antimicrobial agents, including quaternary ammonium compounds and phenolic disinfectants, were then added slowly to the mixture while maintaining constant stirring. These agents were included to provide broad-spectrum antimicrobial activity against bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms commonly found in veterinary environments.

Following this, ethanol or isopropyl alcohol was introduced as a solvent to enhance the dissolution of active ingredients and improve the removal of greasy contaminants. Fragrance was then added to improve the odor of the formulation and reduce unpleasant smells associated with animal waste.

Finally, preservatives were added to maintain product stability and prevent microbial growth during storage. The mixture was stirred thoroughly until a clear and homogeneous solution was obtained. The prepared formulation was transferred to clean storage containers for further evaluation.

Formulation of Veterinary Utensil Cleaning Solution

The veterinary utensil cleaning solution was developed to effectively clean feeding bowls, water containers, veterinary instruments, and other utensils used in animal care. Utensils used in veterinary environments often accumulate feed residues, milk proteins, oils, and microbial contaminants. Therefore, the formulation was designed to possess strong grease-removal ability along with antimicrobial activity to ensure hygienic cleaning. The utensil cleaning solution contained higher concentrations of surfactants to enhance grease removal from feeding utensils and equipment.

Antimicrobial agents were incorporated to eliminate microorganisms and prevent contamination of animal feed and water containers.

Composition of Veterinary Utensil Cleaning Solution

S. No	Ingredient	Function	Quantity (%)
1	Sodium Lauryl Sulfate	Primary surfactant	6
2	Nonionic Surfactant	Grease removal	4
3	Cocamidopropyl Betaine	Foam stabilizer	2
4	Quaternary Ammonium Compound	Antimicrobial agent	1.5
5	Ethanol / Isopropyl alcohol	Solvent	2
6	Sodium chloride	Viscosity modifier	1
7	Fragrance	Odor improvement	0.5
8	Preservative	Product stability	0.5
9	Distilled Water	Vehicle	q.s to 100

Method of Preparation

The utensil cleaning formulation was prepared by first taking distilled water in a clean mixing vessel. Sodium lauryl sulfate was gradually added to the water while stirring continuously to ensure complete dissolution. The nonionic surfactant and cocamidopropyl betaine were then incorporated into the mixture to improve grease removal efficiency and stabilize foam formation. The antimicrobial agent, quaternary ammonium compound, was added to the solution to provide disinfecting properties. Ethanol or isopropyl alcohol was then introduced as a solvent to assist in dissolving oily residues and improving cleaning performance. Sodium chloride was added as a viscosity modifier to adjust the thickness of the formulation and improve handling properties. Fragrance and preservatives were subsequently incorporated into the mixture to enhance product stability and sensory characteristics. The mixture was stirred continuously until a uniform and homogeneous solution was obtained. The final formulation was then stored in airtight containers for further evaluation and testing.

Evaluation of Veterinary Utensil Cleaning Solution

The evaluation of the veterinary utensil cleaning solution was carried out to assess its physicochemical properties and its effectiveness for cleaning utensils used in veterinary facilities. Feeding bowls, water containers, milking equipment, and other utensils used in animal care frequently accumulate food residues, milk proteins, oils, and microbial contaminants. If these contaminants are not properly removed, they may promote microbial growth and lead to contamination of animal feed and water. Therefore, the formulated veterinary utensil cleaning solution was evaluated to ensure that it possesses appropriate cleaning ability, stability, and safety for use in veterinary environments. The evaluation was performed using important parameters such as pH determination, dilution study, and stability study.

pH Determination

The pH of a cleaning solution plays a crucial role in determining its cleaning performance and compatibility with utensils and equipment surfaces. An ideal utensil cleaning solution should have a mild to moderately alkaline pH that helps dissolve grease, oils, and food residues without causing corrosion or damage to utensils made of stainless steel, plastic, or other materials. The pH of the prepared veterinary utensil cleaning solution was measured using a calibrated digital pH meter. A small quantity of the formulation was taken in a clean beaker, and the electrode of the pH meter was immersed into the sample. The reading was recorded once the pH stabilized.

The measured pH value of the formulation was found to be within an acceptable range suitable for cleaning applications. A slightly alkaline pH enhances the detergency of surfactants and facilitates the removal of oily and protein-based residues commonly found on feeding utensils and containers. Maintaining an appropriate pH also ensures that the cleaning formulation remains safe for regular use in veterinary environments.

Dilution Study

Dilution studies were performed to determine the effectiveness of the utensil cleaning solution when diluted with water. In practical use, cleaning solutions are often diluted before application to ensure cost-effectiveness and easy handling. Different dilution ratios of the cleaning solution were prepared using distilled water, such as 1:10, 1:20, and 1:50. These diluted solutions were then applied to utensils contaminated with feed residues, grease, and milk deposits. The cleaning performance of each dilution was evaluated by observing the removal of residues and the formation of foam during the washing process. The results of the dilution study indicated that the utensil cleaning formulation retained effective cleaning performance even at moderate dilution levels. The diluted solutions were able to remove oily residues and food particles efficiently while producing sufficient foam for effective cleaning. These findings suggest that the formulation can be used economically in veterinary facilities while maintaining adequate cleaning efficiency.

Stability Study

Stability testing was conducted to determine whether the veterinary utensil cleaning solution maintains its physical and chemical properties during storage. Stability is an important factor for cleaning formulations because changes in composition, appearance, or odor may affect product performance and consumer acceptance. The prepared cleaning solution was stored in airtight containers at room temperature for a specified period. During this period, the formulation was periodically observed for changes in color, odor, clarity, and phase separation. The presence of precipitation or sediment formation was also monitored.

The results of the stability study showed that the veterinary utensil cleaning formulation remained clear and homogeneous throughout the observation period. No significant changes in color, odor, or physical appearance were observed, and no phase separation or precipitation occurred. These findings indicate that the formulation possesses good physical stability under normal storage conditions. Stable cleaning formulations ensure consistent performance during storage and use, which is essential for maintaining effective sanitation practices in veterinary facilities.

Evaluation of Veterinary Floor Cleaning Solution

The evaluation of the veterinary floor cleaning solution was carried out to determine its physicochemical properties and suitability for maintaining hygiene in veterinary environments. Animal housing facilities such as veterinary hospitals, livestock farms, and shelters are often contaminated with animal waste, organic debris, and microorganisms. Therefore, it is important to evaluate the formulated cleaning solution to ensure that it possesses appropriate cleaning efficiency, stability, and safety for use in such environments. The prepared veterinary floor cleaning formulation was evaluated based on important parameters including pH determination, dilution study, and stability study. These tests help assess the effectiveness of the cleaning formulation and its ability to maintain consistent performance under different conditions.

pH Determination

The pH of a cleaning formulation is an important parameter that influences its cleaning ability, antimicrobial effectiveness, and compatibility with surfaces used in veterinary facilities. An ideal veterinary floor cleaning solution should have a moderately neutral or slightly alkaline pH, which helps in the removal of organic contaminants such as oils, fats, and animal waste without causing damage to floor surfaces or irritation to animals and handlers. The pH of

the prepared veterinary floor cleaning solution was determined using a calibrated digital pH meter. A small quantity of the formulation was transferred into a clean beaker, and the electrode of the pH meter was immersed into the sample. The reading was recorded once the pH value stabilized. The observed pH value of the formulation was found to be within the acceptable range for cleaning applications. A slightly alkaline pH enhances the detergency of surfactants and facilitates the breakdown of organic matter commonly found on floors in animal housing environments. Maintaining an appropriate pH also ensures that the cleaning formulation does not cause corrosion or damage to floor materials such as tiles, concrete, or stone surfaces.

Dilution Study

Dilution studies were conducted to determine the effective concentration of the veterinary floor cleaning solution when mixed with water. In practical applications, cleaning formulations are usually diluted before use to reduce chemical consumption and improve ease of application over large floor areas. Different dilutions of the cleaning solution were prepared using distilled water in various ratios such as 1:10, 1:20, and 1:50. Each diluted solution was applied to contaminated floor surfaces containing typical residues found in veterinary environments, including soil, feed particles, and organic debris. The cleaning performance of each dilution was observed by evaluating the removal of dirt and the formation of foam during the cleaning process. The dilution study revealed that the formulation maintained satisfactory cleaning performance even at moderate dilution levels. Adequate foam formation and effective removal of contaminants were observed in diluted samples, indicating that the cleaning solution can be used economically in veterinary facilities without compromising its effectiveness. Proper dilution also helps reduce chemical residue on floor surfaces and minimizes environmental impact.

Stability Study

Stability studies were carried out to evaluate the physical and chemical stability of the veterinary floor cleaning formulation during storage. Stability is an important factor because cleaning products must retain their effectiveness, appearance, and consistency over time. The prepared cleaning solution was stored in airtight containers at room temperature and observed over a specified period. During the study, the formulation was examined for changes in color, odor, clarity, and phase separation. The presence of sediment, precipitation, or turbidity was also monitored, as these changes may indicate instability in the formulation. The results of the stability study showed that the veterinary floor cleaning solution remained clear and homogeneous throughout the observation period. No significant changes in color, odor, or physical appearance were observed, and no phase separation or precipitation occurred. These observations indicate that the formulation possesses good stability and can be stored under normal conditions without deterioration. Stable formulations ensure consistent cleaning performance and longer shelf life, which are important factors for commercial veterinary hygiene products.

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