Dogs: Individual Room – "Real Life Room" Housing

A double compartment is recommended, and, like kennels, it can be either indoor/outdoor or indoor/indoor.

These rooms are often enclosed with some amount of glass for viewing but should also include design features that allow for adopter-dog interactions.
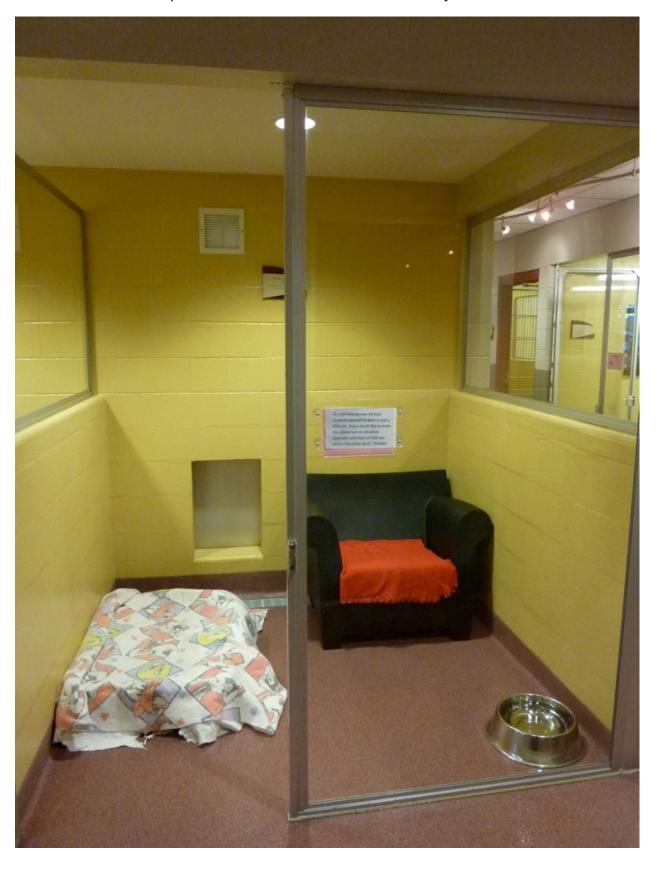
Examples:

- Hybrid doors – with a glass viewing panel on the upper door and bars on the lower portion, with an optional panel to cover the open bars to reduce noise through the door if desired.

- Dutch doors allow for some interaction to occur without having to remove the dog from its housing space.

- Set-up is similar to kennel and cage housing but larger, with additional amenities that might be found in a home, such as easily sanitized or disposable furnishings, a dog bed, and a crate.

- Retreat space should especially be provided in these rooms to allow dogs downtime when desired.

This large real-life room co-houses two dogs and has access to a second, outdoor compartment for urination and defecation needs:

The room is large enough to provide additional amenities if desired. A cleanable type of plastic couch and retreat space with a couple of high-sided beds, crates, or a double-decker bed would be awesome. The double-decker bed and crate can provide elevated space within the housing unit, which many dogs prefer.

Example: A real-life room with access to a second compartment behind the main living area. This second compartment was accessed from a staff-only area.

Related resources:

- Shelter housing for cats (A two-part study by Drs. Denae Wagner, Kate Hurley, and Jenny Stavisky published in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery in 2018):

    - [Principles of design for health, welfare and rehoming](#)

    - [Practical aspects of design and construction, and adaptation of existing accommodation](#)

- Article in Animal Sheltering on Capacity for Care: [Finding your Magic Number](#)

- Peer-reviewed article in The Veterinary Journal: [An observational study of the relationship between Capacity for Care as an animal shelter management model and cat health, adoption and death in three animal shelters](#)

- Dr. Kate Hurley's Conference Lectures from the 2014 University of Florida's Shelter Medicine Course (video recordings) – these are very good:

    - [Part 1](#)

    - [Part 2](#)

- Understanding length of stay (LOS) – [Information sheet](#)

- Calculating shelter capacity – [Information sheet](#)

- Fast track/slow track flow through planning – Fast track/slow track planning – [Information sheet](#)

- Developing intake and adoption decision-making criteria (includes scoring system information) – [Information sheet](#)

- Capacity for Care (C4C) / Magic Number Calculator – [Information sheet](#)

- New paradigms for shelters and community cats – [Information sheet](#)

- Facility design – [Information sheet](#)

- The [ASV Guidelines for Standards of Care in Animal Shelters](#) (PDF)

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