

ALASKA HERPETOLOGICAL SOCIETY
DECONTAMINATION KIT

Contents:

- 10 GALLON STERILITE BIN FOR BLEACH SOLUTION
- 10 GALLON STERILITE BIN FOR CLEAN WATER
- 1 LARGE BOTTLE OF HAND SANITIZER
- 1 LARGE BOTTLE OF BLEACH
- 2 SCRUB BRUSHES
- 1 BOX OF POWDERLESS ONE-SIZE FITS ALL GLOVES

In the event that any of the above items is low or absent, please replace. AHS will reimburse the cost if you keep a receipt. Supply donations are also welcome!

Instructions:

Before Handling

1. Wash hands thoroughly before handling any amphibian without gloves. Hands should be dry and without soap. Avoid handling amphibians unless absolutely necessary. Teach and promote observational herping!
2. If gloves are available, put them on prior to handling amphibians. Since this kit has limited gloves, only AHS representatives should be handling the animals. Always change gloves in between sites (or in-between animals if conducting genetic work or disease sampling).
3. Do NOT apply hand sanitizer before handling amphibians. The chemicals, including ethyl alcohol, can cause harm to an amphibian's porous skin.

After Handling

1. Fill both 10-gallon bins $\frac{3}{4}$ full with fresh clean water.
2. Pour a generous splash of bleach into the tub labeled "bleach."
3. Scrub boots, the bottoms of shoes, nets and any other equipment that came in contact with amphibians or water from the collection site with a scrub brush and the bleach solution. Be sure that the bleach solution has come in contact with all surfaces. Pay extra attention to removing all vegetative matter.
4. Rinse equipment with the freshwater in the bin labeled "water." It will gradually become dirty and have a small amount of bleach but that is okay. Change it out if it gets too bad. If a hose is readily available, use that to rinse thoroughly.
5. After decontamination is complete, pour bleach and rinse water onto ground at an appropriate site away from the collection site and far from any standing water. Appropriate sites include pavement, gravel, drains or any place lacking vegetation.
6. Rinse 10-gallon bins and scrub brushes.
7. Use hand sanitizer on hands and be sure to cover the skin's entire surface. Let dry.
8. Make sure that all contents have been returned to the 10-gallon bins.

Note: Decontamination is important to avoid the spread of amphibian diseases such as chytrid fungus which can easily be transported on shoes and boots. If people are specifically moving between sites in search of amphibians they are far more likely to spread these diseases. This kit should also serve as a demonstration tool, even if an amphibian search is not taking place. In this case, simply pretend that one has bleach to conserve. Thanks!