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Avian Scientific Advisory Group



BROODER ROOM BASICS

Nicole LaGreco San Diego Zoo

(Speaker notes are included in italics.)

This talk is not intended to tell you how to run your brooder room, but to offer suggestions to help you make decision as to what is best for your facility.

Design Do's and Don't's



- ❑ NOT a dedicated space
- ❑ Easy to clean
- ❑ Multi-species functionality
- ❑ Size DOES NOT matter

Designated spaces are not necessary—although nice to have. They don't have to be large, a small utility room or hallway/storage area is sufficient.

No matter the area—it should be easy to clean, both in materials used and clutter. Keeping your brooder space clean is probably the most important component to consistent success.

Easiest to Clean

This is part of the San Clemente loggerhead shrike hand-rearing facility. Note the cabinets up off the floor which makes for easy hosing. The counter top is solid surface, again easy to clean. There is nothing extra on the counter that you have to move in order to clean. Walls are white which makes it easy to see dirt and debris and it's easy to clean material. Cabinets to store necessary supplies.



Easy to Clean



Denver Zoo, easy to clean counter surface, sink for hand washing. Cabinets to store materials, flooring that is easy to clean, cabinets to the ground which will eventually deteriorate depending on materials. White walls, again easy to clean material. Some items on the counter but easy to move.

Easy to Clean



Lincoln Park—multiple surfaces, all easy to clean/non porous. Tile floor—not easy to hose—can mop but mops tend to harbor all sorts of bad things when not cleaned properly. White walls, cabinets to store extra supplies.

Easy to clean



Riverbanks Zoo—can see non/porous counter with nothing extra on it. Cabinets to store supplies which are all also neatly stored within containers and won't gather dust and debris.

NOT easy to clean



Unnamed facility---Wood counter top—porous surface unless sealed, and even then not 100% for extended periods of time.

Easy to clean flooring and storage up off the ground—but open allowing for dust and debris to accumulate.

All the supplies underneath makes cleaning a nightmare and unlikely to occur on a daily basis.

Dedicated space



Santa Barbara Zoo does not have a room dedicated for chick rearing, but they have this area within their vet clinic. They've been able to raise penguins, flamingos, pigeon and waterfowl in this space.

Dedicated space



St. Augustine's Alligator farm also does not have a space dedicated solely to hand-rearing chicks, but have been very successful using this counter space to raise, Pesquet's parrot and plush-crested jays!

Multi-species functionality



APC designed for multi-species functionality. Countertops with brooders for small altricial species. Box brooders for starting pheasants and waterfowl, can be used for parrots. Small indoor holding cages with tiny ponds, can be used for a variety of species such as pelicans, flamingos, storks, hornbills and fledging passerines. Attached outdoor holding for all species when old enough.

Multi-species functionality



While APC was designed specifically for hand-rearing and multi species functionality, most brooder rooms were not, since they are generally space that has been poached and forced to function as a brooder room. With some creativity you can make any space work for the species you are rearing. This flamingo chick is out of the brooder for exercise time.

Multi-species functionality



Can use a variety of spaces as well brooders. If you don't have a lot of space, can create additional space by getting creative. Can raise waterfowl, flamingos, and even lories all in the same space none of which was designed for any of these groups.

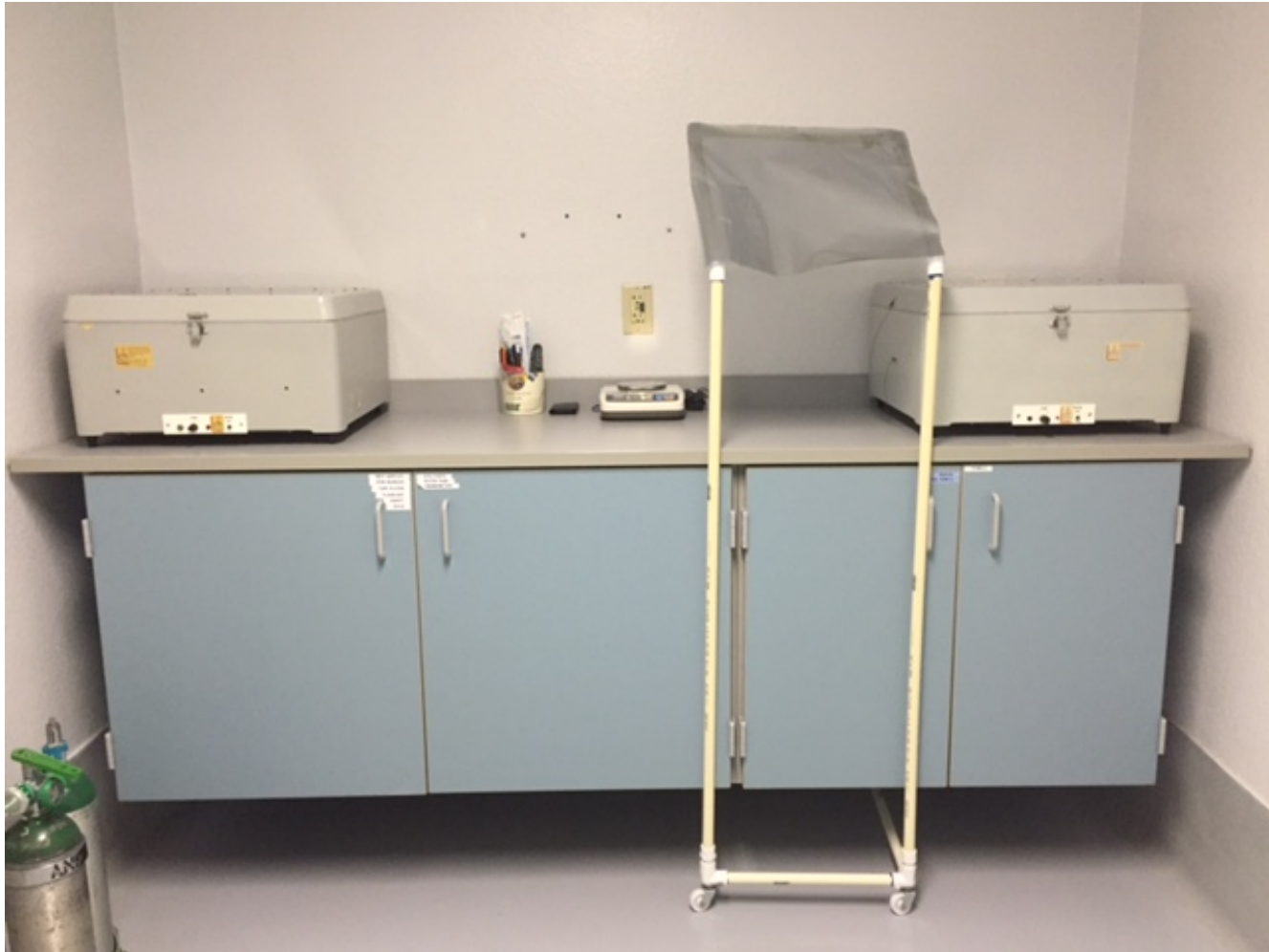


Size DOES NOT matter



As you saw in earlier photos from St. Augustine and Santa Barbara you don't need much space to be successful. This is our incubation and brooder room facility in Galapagos where we raise 15-20 chicks over ~8 weeks, critically endangered Mangrove Finch.

Size DOES NOT matter



Loggerhead Shrikes

Equipment



- ☐ Brooders!
- ☐ Scale
- ☐ Sink
- ☐ Generator/Back up battery
- ☐ Refrigerator
- ☐ Dishwasher
- ☐ Microwave
- ☐ Climate control capabilities

Now that you've designed your brooder room space—you'll need some equipment. Above is a wish list—some more critical than others.

Brooders.....



Many different styles—all these are commercially produced, but saw the home made very functional brooder earlier. Map temperatures! Put thermometer near chick not on the other side of the brooder. Know your equipment!! AICU's can be recalibrated—I get a fair number of e-mails about them not working properly.

Scales...



Calibrate yearly—inaccurate scales can cause numerous issues.

Generator/Back up battery



Example given of rare parrot chick loss due to power outage at another facility.

Back-up in Galapagos, only 15 min, but now used as an alarm.



Sink



Not necessary but makes hand-washing convenient and more likely to occur.

Kitchen



Either separate from the brooder room, but easy access so you can get additional items as needed. Diets can change on short notice and having to go to a central commissary isn't convenient.

Kitchen



Can incorporate into the brooder room as we do in the Galapagos. Small space, easy to clean, and all needed items right at your fingertips.

Climate control



The original APC, heat and AC present. Machines are not meant to cool—only heat so having hot rooms can create issues as can having cold rooms.

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