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To: hermitagecats@aol.com
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Last weekend when I was dumping a couple cat boxes that had gotten a little over-used into the dumpster, I saw an empty bottle labeled "Arena Disinfectant" in the dumpster.

I remember seeing the stuff when the original cleaning crew was coming in, but I didn't think it was still being used since the second group started coming in. (The first group worked while dressed like some haz-mat team with masks, gloves, and foot coverings. This second group has been much more casually dressed.)

An "arena" cleaner seemed a little odd to use in an animal shelter, so I decided to see what I could find online. It took a fair bit of searching since I was looking under "arena cleaner", but I eventually found the manufacturer's website and the product:

Husky 891 Arena Disinfectant
<http://www.canberracorp.com/zone/800.asp>

It turns out that the list of places it can be used is rather varied, including "animal care facilities". However, the warnings and precautionary usage statements for the product have me concerned.

Specifically, it seems the getup of the first cleaning crew was the proper attire when using this stuff. Also, animals are not supposed to be allowed into the area until it has dried.

I'm concerned that the current cleaning crew (and the staff and other volunteers) are using and coming into contact with this cleaner whose label states, "May be fatal if absorbed through skin."

I am particularly alarmed that the cats have been roaming through the areas where this has been used, not only before it dried, but also while it was being applied. If this is toxic to a human, it cannot be good for a cat.

Considering the dangerous nature of the product, I didn't want to wait until I came in again to mention it.

Sean O'Connell