

KENNEL CONSTRUCTION AT STONE MOUNTAIN PET LODGE

BY RAYMOND HURLEY

Paul Stone of Stone Construction was building Stone Mountain Pet Lodge, a state-of-the-art pet kennel in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area in Minnesota. Stone Mountain Pet Lodge is not your average kennel; it's an upscale facility with a 9,000 square-foot kennel area that can board 200 dogs and 75 cats. Dogs have their own 4- by 6-foot indoor kennels attached to a 4- by 12-foot outdoor kennels. The main building houses the retail store, training auditorium, grooming area and an intake/outtake room.

The facility was built to be state-of-the-art, from the heated floors and ventilation to the lighting and wood accents. When it came time to address what type of flooring and wall coating to use in the upscale facility, there were many issues to take into account. The owners were looking for floor and wall coatings that not only were attractive but also durable and easy to keep clean and sanitize. The system had to be tough enough to withstand the harsh environments commonly found in animal care facilities: pet urine, food and water spilling, and the daily cleaning by the staff required a seamless, moisture-proof barrier. The flooring also had to be extremely tough to withstand the constant paw traffic and abuse from chew toys and food bowls found in each animal kennel. Most importantly, the flooring had to be non-slip and easy to clean and sanitize to keep both the animals and their employees safe.

Paul called in flooring contractors Gary and Tim Maciej of QCRC in Ham Lake, Minnesota, whom he had worked with on several other projects and he knew could provide the kind of quality and professionalism needed for this job while also keeping within the strict time frame required. QCRC is a certified contractor for International Coatings, a manufacturer of high-performance epoxy and urethane coatings systems and had used International Coatings products successfully in several other kennels. The system that QCRC recommended was ICO Glaze epoxy coating system on the block walls, ICO Quartz 120 DB epoxy system on the floors and ICO Quartz Cove providing a seamless transition



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between the wall and floor.

There are several key things to consider when looking at coatings for an animal care facility. An animal care facility's floors and walls shouldn't have any joints or cracks, to prevent the growth of mold, fungus, and bacteria. This attention to cleanliness helps prevent the spread of disease from one animal to another. Kennel operators need to easily clean and sanitize each kennel on a regular basis. Because of the presence of constant moisture from cleaning, urine, and water bowls, the system also needs to provide some traction while wet to give both the pet care facility employees and pets a safe walking surface.

In animal facilities there are many advantages that epoxy coating systems have over more conventional floor coverings like VCT Tile, floor paint, and even just bare concrete. Most importantly it provides a completely seamless surface that does not allow the growth of mold, fungus, or bacteria. Also, unlike thin floor paint these epoxy coating systems are applied much thicker and are much more durable. They can handle the frequent abuse and stand up to scratching or

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Articles

PRODUCT PROFILE

gouging from claws, bowls, and chew toys.

The ICO Quartz system comes in a wide variety of attractive colors, and Stone Mountain decided on a custom green color and the ICO Glaze in a neutral green color for the walls to keep the theme of the lodge throughout the whole facility.

The ICO Glaze wall coating is a 100-percent solid, zero volatile organic compounds (VOCs), odorless, epoxy system. It was the wall coating of choice for the block walls because of its excellent moisture, chemical, impact and high temperature resistance. The ICO Glaze system is a much thicker system than conventional paints and dries to a seamless, high gloss, ceramic-like finish that is easy to clean and sanitize. It has excellent adhesion as well as good chemical and thermal shock resistance to handle the regular hot water washdowns.

The ICO Quartz 120 DB is a 1/8-inch-thick seamless system that's also odorless, nontoxic and contains zero VOCs. It's a durable, seamless system that is also very attractive. The epoxy resin contains a colored quartz aggregate that not only enhances the look of the floor but helps build it up to make it tougher. It also provides slip resistance for the animals and employees, even when wet, while still remaining easy to clean and sanitize. The end result is a safe, highly attractive, easy-to-maintain floor that impervious to moisture.

To ensure a successful installation, proper preparation of the block walls and concrete floors is crucial. QCRC shot blasted and ground the floor to provide a clean, sound substrate surface for the epoxy to bond to.

After prepping the concrete by shot blasting and diamond grinding, QCRC installed ICO Quartz 120 DB.



Dogs have their own 4- by 6-foot indoor kennels attached to 4- by 12-foot outdoor kennels. The system used at Stone Mountain Pet Lodge was ICO Glaze epoxy coating system on the block walls, ICO Quartz 120 DB epoxy system on the floors and ICO Quartz Cove providing a seamless transition between the wall and floor.

It's a 1/8-inch-thick, seamless, double broadcast system that's odorless and non toxic. Next, they installed a cove using the ICO Quartz Cove product. It has the same great look, durability and chemical resistance as the ICO Quartz 120 DB and provides a seamless transition from floor to wall that leaves no place for debris to collect or bacteria to hide. Lastly, on the new block walls QCRC installed ICO Glaze, a completely seamless epoxy-coating system applied in three steps that dries to a high gloss, ceramic-like finish. It's impervious to moisture and has excellent chemical, impact, and thermal shock resistance.

The owners have been so impressed with the quality of the installation and the performance of the products that Paul has contracted QCRC to install an International Coatings flake system in the entranceways and retail areas.

For more information on these epoxy systems, or to talk to a certified applicator, you can contact International Coatings at (800) 624-8919. 🐾