



SIKA AT WORK

SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS CANINE UNIVERSITY

BUILDING TRUST



SIKA FLOORING - COMFORTING CANINE CADETS.

“COMFORTFLOOR IS SEAMLESS, CHEMICALLY RESISTANT, AND EASY-TO-CLEAN IN CASE THE PUPPIES HAVE ‘ACCIDENTS.’ ALL MY PREVIOUS COMFORTFLOOR INSTALLATIONS HAVE HAD EXCELLENT RESULTS, SO I KNEW THIS WAS A PERFECT SOLUTION FOR THEM.”

Sometimes “going to the dogs” is a good thing -- a very good thing. That’s the case with the recent Sikafloor installations at the Southeastern Guide Dogs facility in Palmetto, Florida. Southeastern Guide Dogs, whose slogan is “serving those who cannot see and those who have seen too much,” provides free guide dogs to the sight-impaired and military veterans suffering from physical or emotional disabilities. Sika Flooring and Master Sikafloor Installer, TPS Group Design of Orlando, furnished two unique flooring systems for their new, state-of-the-art Canine University – Sika ComfortFloor and Sikafloor DecoFlake.

Making the “Hugging Room” Comfy

The ComfortFloor system -- a seamless, fluid-applied urethane floor system which provides both comfort and toughness by combining softness under foot and durability -- was installed in the “hugging room” of the Guide Dog Academy. Here people spend time with the Labrador, Golden Retriever, and Goldador puppies that are in training to become service dogs. “They wanted a cushioned floor system where people would be comfortable sitting on the floor with the dogs,” explained Juan Leon, owner of TPS Group Design. “ComfortFloor is seamless, chemically resistant, and easy-to-clean in case the puppies have ‘accidents.’ All my previous ComfortFloor installations have had excellent results, so I knew this was a perfect solution for them.”

TPS Group Design waited until the tile and paint trades were finished with the room so that the floor installation could be done in a clean area to avoid dust or contaminants. The floor installers performed surface preparation and testing of the concrete slab, applied Sikafloor 1610 epoxy primer, then installed a Comfort Regupol Rubber Mat to the floor with ComfortFloor adhesive for improved ergonomics and additional comfort. “We were dealing with the main floor and four different sloped areas,” Leon stated. “It was a challenge to install the rubber mat and avoid joints between the flat area and the sloping areas. We were able to stagger the mat rows and apply ComfortFloor filler to achieve a true seamless floor.”

Project

Southeastern Guide Dogs
Canine University
Palmetto, Florida

Flooring Contractor

TPS Group Design
Orlando, Florida

Flooring Systems

Sika ComfortFloor Pro® and
Sikafloor® DecoFlake®

Project Size

15,000 square feet - DecoFlake floor,
Residence Hall

10,000 square feet -- ComfortFloor,
Guide Dog Academy

Completed

March 2017, Guide Dog Academy
March 2018, Residence Hall





After the mat was installed the crew applied Sikafloor 330, a flexible polyurethane membrane at 100mils, followed by Sikafloor 304 W Pigmented, a water-based urethane that was broadcast with vinyl flakes at 15% coverage and finished with Sikafloor 304 W Clear, a low VOC, very low odor urethane top coat, to protect the underlying flooring layers. The entire installation took about seven working days.

A “Fetching” Looking Floor

A year later TPS Group Design was called upon again to install floor systems in the corridors, laundry, and kitchen of the Residence Hall, which had very different requirements from the “hugging room.”

“These floors had to be durable, easy-to-clean, seamless, and attractive,” Leon commented. A Sikafloor DecoFlake System, an aesthetic, easy-to-clean, seamless floor consisting of a clear epoxy binder, broadcast with multicolor vinyl chips and sealed with transparent or UV stable topcoats, was an excellent fit for these specifications.

“The biggest challenge in installing these floors was completing 10,000 square feet in four days,” Leon said. “We had to do details around the drains because the concrete was higher than the drains, so we had to grind down the concrete and blast it to get the right profile.” Once the concrete was ready, the installers applied Sikafloor 1610 Moisture Containment System to address the concrete moisture content that exceeded 6%.

Sikafloor 217 was applied as a grout coat over which Sikafloor 264 epoxy resin was used as a base color coat, and while still tacky, Sika vinyl flakes were broadcast to provide a dazzling color pattern. Following this a Sikafloor 315N urethane top coat was applied. “This top coat increases the toughness of the floor and protects against scratches. It is also highly UV and chemically resistant -- perfect for laundries, kitchens, and puppies,” Leon remarked. “In my opinion, the success of this application was the superior quality of this top coat.”

The Sika Flooring representative also played a role in the success of this project. “He was always available to give us advice based on his experience,” Leon said. “He was really, really helpful.”

A Tail Wagging Ending

The two Sika Flooring systems have everyone wagging their tails with happiness. “I was at Canine University recently and the floors still look like new and everyone loves them,” Leon stated. “After having problems with other flooring manufacturers -- such as top coats peeling off or delays in application -- the people at the Canine University are so happy with the Sika floors that they want to apply Sika Flooring systems to their other floors as the university expands.”

And that’s no shaggy dog story.

CANINE UNIVERSITY, PALMETTO, FL.



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