

Handling and Restraint of Companion Animals

Dr. Charles Greco
Suffolk County Society for
Prevention Cruelty to Animals



Four Types of Restraint

- Non-contact: Voice, eye contact, gesture.
- Manual or physical: Using body or devices.
- Chemical: Using tranquilizers or anesthetics.
- Combination methods: Using two or more of the previous methods.



Restraint of Dogs

- The dogs primary weapon are large teeth and strong jaws.
- Aggressive dogs use direct eye contact and may stare at a human.
- Other warning signs: Piloerection, growling, standing stiff legged, and tail flagging.



WATCH OUT



Fear Biters



- Appear submissive at first, but quickly and quietly bite if their comfort zone is invaded.
- These animals can be extremely dangerous and hard to “read”.



Pack Member



- Respond to dominance- alpha orientation.
- Depending on the situation a firm manner might get the best results.



Other Techniques



- Modulating the voice high pitch.
- Avoid eye contact.
- Non threatening body posture (standing sideways or crouching down).

Restraint Devices



- Muzzles-nylon, leather, wire ,gauze
- Rabies stick
- Plastic squeeze barriers
- Bang stick
- Towels
- Gloves

Lifting and Carrying Dogs



- Small dog – carried by holding it between the arms, being sure to support the back.



Lifting and Carrying Dogs



- A large or medium sized dog should be lifted carefully (from a squatting position) to prevent back injury.



Restraint of cats



- Interpretation of the body language of cats is important in predicting what they will probably do when being taken from a cage or restrained.

Cats in defensive position



- Crouch exposing the side of their body.
- Eye becomes dilated.
- Piloerection
- Hiss



Equipment

- Gloves
- Towels
- Muzzles
- Snare
- Tongs



Gentle Cat

- The left hand and arm are used to cradle the body, control the hindquarters and press the cat into the body of the restrainer.
- The right hand can be used to scruff or just rested on the neck to reassure the cat.



Birds

- One of the greatest fears for anyone is the capture and restraint of a small or a large parrot.



Methods of Restraint



- To reduce stress on a bird during capture turn off the lights.
- Mr. Towel

Small Bird < 120 grams



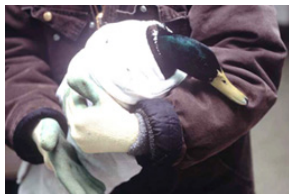
- Held with one hand. The head is maintained between the forefinger and middle finger as the bird rests in dorsal recumbancy in the palm of the hand with the thumb, ring finger, and pinkie loosely holding the body.



Large Birds



- Should always use a towel.
- Towel allows you to hide your hand as you maneuver around the back of the birds neck.



Handling Small Lizards



- Small specimens place your thumb and index finger on each side of the mandible and allow the animal's body to rest in the palm of your hand.



Handling Large Lizards



- Large lizards-place your index finger and thumb on the corners of the mandible and use your second hand to hold the rear legs against the tail.
- NEVER hold a lizard by the tail.



Snakes



- Never handle a snake if you don't know what kind it is.
- Place your index finger and thumb under the mandible and use your additional hand to support the body.
- One person can handle a snake 2-3 foot long
- Larger constrictors should never be handled without assistance.



Ferrets

- Can be safely restrained by scruffing.
- This is accomplished by grasping the skin over the dorsal cervical area with the index finger and the thumb



Rabbits

- Do not hold a rabbit by the ears.
- When removing a rabbit from a cage grasp the scruff with one hand, placing the other hand under its tail, supporting the rear legs.
- Bunny burrito



Guinea pigs

- Restrained by grabbing the animal around the shoulders with one hand, lifting the animal up, and supporting the rear with the other hand



Thank You