Veterinary Science
Preparatory Training for the Veterinary Assistant
Floron C. Faries, Jr., DVM, MS
Handling & Restraining
Dogs & Cats

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Objectives

- Discuss the different fear responses of a dog and a cat
- Describe the steps for greeting a dog and a cat for the first time
- Describe the steps for catching a vicious dog or cat or one that has been exposed to rabies
- Discuss techniques for restraining a dog or a cat during an examination
- Discuss techniques for restraining a dog or a cat during various medical procedures
- Describe special tools and procedures for restraining dogs and cats
Fear Responses of Dogs

When cornered:
- Submission
  - Is safe to handle.
- Aggression
  - Be cautious of dog bites.
  - Entice the dog with treats.
  - Entice a male dog with a female dog.
  - Reassure with voice that no one will hurt the dog.
  - Catch the dog with a rope or a snare.
  - Two handlers catch vicious dog with ropes or snares.
  - Tranquilize vicious dog.
Greeting a Dog

- Extend hand with palm down.
- Allow dog to smell hand.
- Avoid eye contact.
- Scratch the dog.
Restraining a Dog During Examination

- On the table
- Gauze muzzle
  - Place loop on nose with knot ties above and below.
  - Place knot tie behind neck.
    - Knot tie neck and nose loops in pug-nosed dogs.
A Muzzle for a Pug-nosed Dog

A Temporary Muzzle
Restraining a Dog During Medical Procedures

- On the table
- Hold dog on its side with hands holding front and rear legs with forefinger between legs.
  - Face dog’s back.
  - Press forearms across neck and flank.
Hold dog’s body upright against table with arm and elbow.
- Lean against dog’s body.
- Hold dog’s head with other arm and hand.
- Hold dog’s foreleg at elbow with hand of arm on table.
  - Apply thumb pressure to expose cephalic vein of leg.
- Change hands to extend dog’s forelegs with hand at paws.
  - Expose area of jugular vein of neck.
Restraint for Intravenous Injection into the Leg
Restraint for Jugular Venipuncture
Special Dog Restraint Tools

- Elizabethan collar to prevent licking, chewing, and scratching
- Mouth speculum for stomach tube
Vicious Cats

- Apply minimum effective restraint.
- Throw blanket or towel.
- Use heavy leather gloves.
- Use a snare.
- Use tranquilizer.
Carrying Cats

- Grasp scruff of cat’s neck with one hand.
- Support cat’s body with other forearm.
  - Hold cat’s rear legs with elbow against body.
  - Hold cat’s front legs with hand and with forefinger between legs.
- Use carrier or box or basket with lid.
Method for Carrying a Cat for a Short Distance
Restraining a Cat During Examination

- On the table
- Gauze muzzle as pug-nosed dogs
Restraining a Cat During Medical Procedures

- In the carrier
- On the table
- Stretch method
  - Grasp scruff of cat’s neck with one hand.
  - Grasp back legs with other hand.
  - Stretch the cat on side.
- Sliding technique
  - Slide the cat for injections.
The Stretch Method for Holding a Cat
Hold cat’s head and front paw with hand.

Hold cat’s other foreleg at elbow with other hand and cat’s body with arm.

- Apply thumb pressure to expose cephalic vein of leg.
Cat Held for Venipuncture of the Foreleg
Hold cat’s head with hand and raise the nose.

- Extend the front legs with other hand at paws.
  - Expose area of jugular vein of neck.
Cat Held for Venipuncture of the Jugular Vein
Place hand on top of cat’s head.
- Grasp between eyes and ears.
- Bend cat’s head back.

Hold pill between thumb and forefinger of other hand.
- Pull cat’s lower jaw down with middle finger.
- Press on lower incisor teeth.

Pop pill into cat’s back throat.
- Close cat’s mouth.
- Massage cat’s throat.
A Cat Being Given a Pill