Handling & Restraining Rodents, Rabbits, & Exotic Animals

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Objectives

- Discuss the different fear responses of these animals
- Describe the steps for catching these animals
- Describe the techniques for restraining these animals
- Describe special tools and procedures for restraining these animals
- Describe the unique risks involved when handling and restraining these animals
Rodents and Rabbits

- Rouse if asleep.
- Beware of bites.
- Beware of kicks.
- Do not grasp tail by end of tail – skin slips.
- Use glove or towel.
- Support body.
- Do not squeeze trachea with thumb under chin.
- Do not squeeze thorax or abdomen.
- Do not grasp ears.
- Do not lift by tail if animal on wire bottom cage.
- Grasp nape of neck.
- Grasp base of tail.
- Grasp under thorax.
- Cup hand over back.
- Grasp body over back with thumb and third finger.
- Grasp behind lower jaw.
- Wrap rump with towel.
- Support rump.
Exotics

- **Ratites**
  - Beware of forward and side kicks.
  - Hold wings close to body.
  - Grasp sternum or wing base.
  - Lower head to ground.
  - Grasp rear of body between legs.
  - Hood head.

- **Llamas**
  - Beware of bites.
  - Beware of spitting (regurgitates).
  - Hood head.
  - Use halter.
  - Use chute/stanchion.
  - Grasp ear.
Miniature pigs

- Lift by trunk of body.
- Lift by canvas sling with 4 holes for legs.
- Scratch back.
- Leg lift and snout snare cause injuries.

Reptiles

- Beware of bites and scratches.
- Do not handle rough – injures skin.
- Support with two hands – prevents spine injury.
- Grasp neck behind head.
Pet birds

- Beware of bites.
- Do not use gloves – frightens.
- Darken room.
- Grasp head and neck with towel.
- Hold wings close to body with towel.
- Do not grasp sternum – suffocates.