



Category 1: Physical and Emotional

MANDATORY

1.11a If training and/or behavior modifications are provided at the practice, either by a team member or an outside provider, techniques must be free from aversives and adhere to scientific principles for humane handling.

11.b If the practice refers clients to a trainer in the community, the trainer's techniques must be free from aversives and adhere to scientific principles for humane handling. Firsthand experience is HIGHLY recommended.

- Aversives include confrontational or frightening human-pet interactions. Examples are physical corrections, such as jerking leashes or swatting; verbal reprimands, such as shouting “No!”; startling stimuli, such as spray bottles, air horns, shake cans, or ultrasonic devices; and training tools like prong, pinch, choke, electric stimulation (shock), and citronella collars.¹
- Fear Free highly recommends you have recent, firsthand experience with any trainer you recommend.

Resources include but are not limited to:

- Fear Free Podcast: “Why Trainers & Veterinary Professionals Should Work Together”
- Fear Free Webinar: “There are no Fear Free trainers near me – how do I meet the trainer standards?”
- AAHA Canine and Feline Behavior Management Guidelines
- <https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.dacvb.org/resource/resmgr/docs/How-to-select-a-trainer-vet.pdf>
- <https://spca.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/AnimalKind-Dog-Training-Standards.pdf>
- <https://positively.com/dog-training/find-a-trainer/how-to-choose-a-good-dog-trainer/>
- <https://apdt.com/resource-center/how-to-choose-a-dog-trainer/>
- AVSAB Position Statements