



Category 1: Physical and Emotional

MANDATORY

1.3 Restraint/stabilization of any patient that could be painful and/or cause emotional distress is prohibited. The use of physical punishment or force in anger or frustration is unacceptable.

- Team members should choose a calm and quiet environment for procedures.
- Team members should allow adequate time for the animal to acclimate to the environment.
- When restraint/stabilization is needed, it should be of the least intensity and duration.
- If a canine patient struggles longer than 3 seconds or a feline patient longer than 2 seconds, this indicates a need to stop and reassess.
- If a canine patient struggles 3 times or a feline patient struggles 2 times, this indicates a need to stop and reassess.
- PVN, PVP, and sedatives are used when appropriate to alleviate FAS and increase patient and team member safety.
- Scruffing of cats is not permitted.
- “Box” or “tank” anesthetic induction is not permitted.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

- May include but are not limited to:
 - Nonslip surfaces
 - Blankets and towels to assist with stabilization and provide hiding places
 - Humane traps (e.g. clamshell net) for capture of fearful cats for sedation
 - Use of “cat gloves” should be a rare occurrence (e.g. to safely restrain patient for injectable sedation), the same way a human trap might be used.
 - Review Level 2 Module 2 “Cat Emergency Sedation” for alternatives.
 - Basket-type muzzles are preferred
 - They provide safety but still allow mouth breathing, panting, and taking treats.
 - Avoid nylon or noose-type muzzles that hold the mouth shut or those that restrict opening of mouth. If necessary, use them only for quick procedures. They should never be left on patients when hospitalized.
 - The Canine Friendly Short Snout Dog Muzzle (or equivalent) may be more appropriate, as determined by the dog’s facial phenotype.
- PVN, PVP, sedatives, analgesics
- Treats, toys, brushes, or other grooming objects to help with lowering FAS

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Towel wrap technique for restraint (Credit: Sophia Yin)



Basket muzzle being utilized



Canine Friendly Short Snout Dog Muzzle