



Category 1: Physical and Emotional

MANDATORY

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

- Practice team members should choose a calm and quiet environment for procedures.
- Practice team members should allow adequate time for the animal to acclimate to the environment
- While in the care of the practice, the animal's body language is continually monitored, and practice team members adjust as needed to prevent and alleviate FAS.

- When restraint is needed it should be of the least intensity and duration needed.
- 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 practice team member safety.

- Scruffing of cats is not an acceptable means of restraint.
- 'Box' or 'tank' anesthetic induction is not an acceptable means of sedating/anesthetizing a pet.
- A muzzle, nor any other restraint implement, is never an excuse to overlook, override, or overpower the emotional state of the animal.

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES

Examples include but are not limited to:

- Non-slip surfaces
- Blankets and towels to assist with restraint 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 humane 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 or use them only for quick procedures. They should never be left patients when hospitalized.

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- The Canine Friendly Short Snout Dog Muzzle (or equivalent) may be more appropriate, as determined by the dog's facial phenotype
- PVNs, PVPs, sedatives, analgesics
- Treats, toys, brushes or other grooming objects to help with lowering FAS



Towel wrap technique for restraint Credit: Sophia Yin



Basket muzzle being utilized



Canine Friendly Short Snout Dog Muzzle