



## **Category 1: Physical and Emotional**

### **MANDATORY**

**1.10 Restraint and/or 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.**

- Training
  - Training in appropriate handling and restraint methods
  - Staff performance should be monitored on a continual basis
- Restraint
  - Restraint, when necessary, should be of the least intensity and duration necessary
  - 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
  - Scruffing of cats is not permitted

### **Equipment and Supplies**

May include but are not limited to:

- Blankets and towels to assist with restraint
- 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 on patients when hospitalized.
- Various sedatives and medications to lower FAS and decrease restraint
- Treats, toys, brushes, etc. to help with lowering FAS

### **Examples and Compliance Paths**

- Annual employee training on appropriate handling and restraint methods
- Fear Free course review for all staff involved in animal handling and care
- Development of a hospital policy that addresses avoidance of physical punishment or force
- Said policy should be read and signed by all hospital employees annually and kept with employee records

### **Scoring**

Review training log

Review of hospital policy and employee participation