Category 1: Physical and Emotional

MANDATORY
1.11 When animal training and behavior modification strategies are employed, they must be free from aversives and adhere to scientific principles for humane handling techniques.

- Training
  - Staff are screened and selected for suitability to tasks assigned
  - Animal training utilizes appropriate training techniques
  - All staff involved in animal training should be Fear Free certified
  - All staff involved in animal training should have read AAHA's Canine and Feline Behavior Management Guidelines
  - Aversives are not permitted: aversives include but are not limited to methods that use force, pain, intimidation, or coercion

Equipment and Supplies

May include but are not limited to:

- Treats, toys, brushes, etc. to support positive reinforcement
- Gentle control tools acclimated appropriately
- Pet owner private or group sessions to support continued training at home
- Various anxiolytic medications to facilitate learning

Examples and Compliance Paths

- Online course completion such as Fear Free training module or other reputable training courses, such as Karen Pryor Academy (www.karenpryoracademy.com)
- Training certification from Fear Free recognized training organizations. A listing can be found under eligibility criteria for the Fear Free Animal Trainer Certification course (https://fearfreepets.com/courses/fear-free-animal-trainer-program/#1509467937617-9183a921-70ae).
- Review of literature on behavior management:
  - AAHA Canine and Feline Behavior Management Guidelines
  - AAFP Feline Behavior Guidelines
  - AVSAB Position Statements on:
    - Puppy Socialization
    - Punishment
    - Dominance
    - How to Choose a Trainer

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- If a referral to a credentialed trainer is made, the trainer meets all guidelines set forth by Fear Free. For a list of approved trainers and credentials, see Fear Free training module. If trainer or credentials are not shown, contact Fear Free.
- For patients exhibiting high FAS scores (Level 3, 4, or 5) there are notes in the medical record as to recommendations for behavior modification.

Scoring

Medical record review
Trainer referral list
Training log