



Animal Behavior and Restraint

Companion Animals




IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
the Center for Food Security and Public Health

Companion Animals

- Domesticated species
 - Dogs, cats, rabbits, rodents, birds
- Exotic pet species
 - Reptiles, amphibians, small mammals, monkeys,
 - Wildlife or farm animals
- Service animals
 - Remain with owner at human shelters




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Animal Facilities

- Local animal facilities
 - Animal shelters, kennels, pet stores, animal research facilities
- Illegal animal activity
 - Hoarding, animal fighting operations, illegal exotic animal breeding, illegally kept exotic or native wildlife

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General Companion Animal Behavior

- Most approachable, non-aggressive
- Disaster situation may behavior changes
- Fear, injury, protective nature make animals more likely to bite






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Approaching an Unknown Animal

- Safety first
- Watch animal's body language
 - Cues to demeanor of animals
- Approach from the side
- Avoid cornering the animal
- Avoid direct eye contact
- Expect the unexpected

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DOGS

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Dog Body Language: Playful and Attentive

Playful

Alert and Attentive

Graphic illustrations from FEMA CERT Animal Response Module I and II

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Dog Body Language: Fearful or Aggressive

Fearful - Defensive Threat

Aggressive - Offensive Threat

Graphic illustrations from FEMA CERT Animal Response Module I and II

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Dogs Not Showing Aggression

- Call the animal using a soft voice and relaxed posture
- Approach slowly
- Place slip leash without physical contact
 - Avoid grabbing collar or standing over dog
- Avoid loud noises, flashing lights
- Minimize people in area
- Offer a treat or food
- Attempt basic obedience commands
- Minimize arm and hand movements

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Frightened or Aggressive Dogs

- Best approached by experienced dog handler
- Two or more people
- Move slowly
- Avoid direct eye contact
- Stand sideways
- Calm, quiet voice
 - If possible, get the dog to come to you

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Dog Restraint Devices

- Slip leashes
 - Only if non-aggressive
 - Loop around neck, slip to tighten
 - Do not attach leash to the collar
 - Do not drag dog on leash
 - Do not leave dog in slip leash unattended or tied to any object
- Snare or catch pole (Rabies stick)
 - Aggressive dogs

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Dog Restraint Devices



- Muzzles
 - Cloth, leather
 - Gauze, rope, twine
 - To prevent bites
 - Do not restrict open-mouth breathing
 - Especially in hot weather
 - Do not leave muzzled dog unattended
 - Should not be on for long periods of time

A Temporary Muzzle

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Lifting and Carrying Dogs


- Support chest and hindquarters
- If bite potential, muzzle prior to lifting
- Small dogs
 - Lift under abdomen
 - Hand between front legs
- Medium dogs
 - Cradle arms around chest and haunches
- Large dogs
 - Two people

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Standing Restraint for Dogs

- Place one arm under the dog's neck
- Other arm behind the rear legs or under dog's abdomen
- Pull dog's head snug against shoulder



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Lateral Restraint for Dogs

- Gently lay dog on its side
- Stand against dog's back
- Place arms across the dog's neck and hindquarter
- Grasp bottom legs



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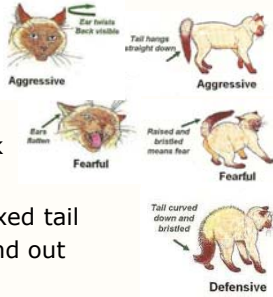
CATS

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Cat Body Language

- Aggressive
 - Rear elevated
 - Ears out to side
 - Direct eye contact
 - Hair raised on back
- Relaxed
 - Calm posture, relaxed tail
 - Ears pointing up and out



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Handling Cats

- Approach in crouch or sideways
- Move slowly
- Speak slowly and softly
- Offer food
- Aggressive or fearful cats
 - Allow cat time to calm down
 - Use double thick or armored gloves and eye protection
 - Attempt capture with nets, blankets, traps
- Work with a partner

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Carrying and Transporting Cats

- One hand restrains the forelegs
- Arm crosses flank to hold body
- Other hand gently holds the head
- Scruffing by loose skin at neck
- Minimize noises and bright lights.
- Gloves or blanket can protect from bites and scratches
- Transport in appropriate carrier
 - Lower cat hind feet first
 - Pillowcases can be used as carriers



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OTHER SPECIES



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Rabbits


- Grasp the scruff of the neck
- Lift quickly
- Always support the hindquarters
- Never grab by ear or tail
- Carry a rabbit with feet pointing away from your body
- A light towel or blanket



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Rodents and Ferrets


- Make sure awake
- Hold in one hand, cup other over its head
- Wrap thumb and index finger around neck and under chin
- Do not over tighten fingers around chest as this can impair breathing



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Birds


- Trained personnel
- Can stress easily
- Do not squeeze thorax
- Sensitive to overheating
- Small to medium sized
 - Grasp from behind, finger and thumb on sides of head, others around body
- Large birds require 2 hands
- Towel can also be used



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Reptiles and Amphibians

- Range from small and delicate to large and dangerous
- Temperature-sensitive
 - Different species
 - Different temperatures
 - Avoid getting too cold or too hot
- Skilled professionals for handling



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References and Resources

- FEMA CERT Animal Response Training Modules I and II available at: <http://www.fema.gov/community-emergency-response-teams/training-materials>
- AVMA Emergency Preparedness and Response Guide available at: <https://www.avma.org/kb/resources/reference/disaster/pages/default.aspx>
- Restraint and Handling of Wild and Domestic Animals, 3rd Edition by M Fowler
- Restraint of Domestic Animals by TF Sonsthagen

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Acknowledgments

Development of this presentation was by the Center for Food Security and Public Health at Iowa State University through funding from the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture

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