

Fretful Felines

— The Gentle Handling and Restraint of Anxious Cats —

Outline of DVD

Introduction

- Dr. Susan Krebsbach's background
 - Over 10 years of veterinary experience
 - Over 4 ½ years of experience with feral cats, handling over 1,000 feral cats
 - Owner of Creature Counseling, Veterinary Animal Behavior Consulting Services
- This DVD was developed to assist rescue organizations and veterinary clinics with the gentle handling and restraint of anxious cats

Advantages and Benefits of the Towel and Glove Technique

- Advantages (why this technique is effective):
 - Provides the cat with visual security, allowing the cat to be less apprehensive
 - Provides the handler with whole body control of the cat
 - Provides the handler with protection from injury
 - No special equipment is required
- Benefits:
 - Makes the experience less stressful for the cat, caregiver, handler, and even the veterinarian
 - Provides better safety for the cats, handlers, and veterinarians
 - Able to perform a variety of techniques (e.g., auscultation, administering oral medication, drawing blood, IV injections, trimming toe nails, etc.)
 - Saves time

The Equipment

- Thicker bath towel
- Flexible handling gloves

Technique Description

- Securing a cat
 - In a room or a cage
 1. Observe the room — think like a frightened cat (i.e., where would you go to hide)
 2. Remove hiding places or prohibit access
 3. Slowly approach the cat with the towel and handling gloves
 4. Calmly and slowly wrap the towel around the cat's whole body
 - a) MAKE SURE THE HEAD IS COVERED (this provides the cat with visual security)
 5. Calmly and slowly bring the covered cat towards your body
 - From a carrier
 1. Remove the screws or devices that are holding the top of the carrier in place
 2. Have a helper gradually remove the top of the carrier at an angle, like removing the lid from a can
 3. While the helper is removing the top and while wearing handling gloves, slowly slide the towel across the area of the carrier where the top used to be
 4. Calmly and slowly wrap the towel around the cat's whole body

- a) MAKE SURE THE HEAD IS COVERED (this provides the cat with visual security)
- 5. Calmly and slowly bring the covered cat towards your body
- Releasing a cat
 - Into a room or cage
 1. Take the cat to the area where he or she will be released
 2. Position the cat so that his or her head is facing the direction that you want the cat to go
 3. Slowly peel back the towel so that the cat's head is exposed and the cat can move away
 - Into a carrier
 1. Position the cat so that his or her head is directed toward the carrier
 2. Move the cat's body as far into the carrier as you can without releasing your grip on the cat
 3. Slowly peel back the towel so that the cat can escape into the carrier

Simulation

- A simulation of the towel and glove technique to restrain a stuffed cat (Butch)

Demonstration with Live Cats

- Securing a cat in a room (Einstein)
 - Observe the room
 1. Remove hiding places or prohibit access, if possible
 2. Remove objects that could be knocked over
 - Demonstration of gentle restraint
 - Demonstration of medical techniques:
 1. Auscultation
 2. Administering oral medication
 3. Blood draw
 4. IM or SC injections
 - Demonstration of releasing a cat into a carrier
- Securing a cat with more difficulty in a room (Pepe)
 - Demonstration of gentle restraint
 - Demonstration of forced interaction used for socialization
 - Demonstration of toe nail trimming
 - Demonstration of releasing of a cat into a confined space
 1. Cat appears less anxious than before handling
- Securing a cat from a carrier (Einstein)
 - Demonstration of releasing of a cat into a less confined space

Review

- Adapt the space, if possible
- Use proper equipment
 - A heavy bath towel
 - Flexible handling gloves
- Remember proper technique
 - Take a slow, calm approach
 - Cover the entire cat with the towel

- a) Make sure that the HEAD IS COVERED (this provides the cat with visual security)
- Practice makes perfect
 - If this technique does not work the first time, do not grab or chase the cat
 1. Instead, reassess the situation and try again

Credits

Narrator and Content ExpertSusan Krebsbach, D.V.M.
 Content Expert Karen Bryant, D.V.M.
 Producer/EditorMichael Bryant

Music

Theme music Close & Bryant

Stunt Cats (in order of appearance):

ButchAs himself
 Einstein As himself
 PepeAs himself

Thanks to all of the *wonderful* volunteers of the Dane County Friends of Ferals for the experience of a lifetime and being a savior to the most anxious cats of all — the feral cats.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of this DVD will be donated to the Dane County Friends of Ferals.

This DVD is available from Creature Counseling™ at www.CreatureCounseling.com.