Lifting and Restraining a Dog

University of BRISTOL

Year Group: All

Equipment for this station:

- Model dog
  - Using a standing model dog for:
    - Lifting
    - Restraint in a standing position
    - Restraint in lateral recumbency
  - Use an Ikea dog or a sitting model dog for:
    - Restraint in a sitting position

Considerations for this station:

- Ensure that the correct type of model dog is selected and used for the skill being practised (see section above).
- Before lifting a live dog or positioning a dog for restraint, assess the dog's temperament and decide if a muzzle should be applied. Refer to instruction booklet 'CSL_D02 Fitting a Muzzle'.

Clinical Skills:
Lifting a Dog onto a Table

1

Use a standing (fixed position) model dog.

Before starting, ensure that the dog is small enough to lift on your own. Dogs weighing more than 15kg should be lifted by two people.

2

Check that you and the dog are close to the table.

3

Crouch next to the dog's flank in a low squat. Keep your back straight.

4

Place one hand under the dog's neck and onto the head.

5

Pass your other arm under the dog's abdomen, close to the hindlimbs, and place your hand on the flank on the far side.

6

Hold the dog towards yourself, supporting the dog by cradling it between your arms and body.

7

Stand up carefully, keeping your back straight and pushing up through your legs.

8

Place the dog on the table, keeping a firm hold until the dog is able to fully support its own weight.

1

Use a standing (fixed position) model dog.

Position the dog close to the edge of the table, with its flank close to your body.

2

Place one hand under the dog's neck and onto the far side of the head.

3

Pull the head gently into your body.

4

Place your other arm under the dog's abdomen, close to the hindlimbs, and move your hand up onto the far side flank.

This technique can be used to encourage the dog to stand if it is sitting, by applying gentle pressure under the abdomen.

5

Depending on the size of the dog, it may be preferable to place your second arm and hand around the back of the dog's legs. This may be easier in larger dogs, but will prevent parts of the examination e.g. taking a rectal temperature.

6

Hold the dog by cradling it towards yourself, so it is supported between your arms and body. Use the minimum amount of restraint necessary to keep the dog still while ensuring you can prevent the dog biting a colleague (and yourself).

1

Use either an Ikea dog placed in a sitting position or a sitting (fixed position) model dog.

Position the dog so it is close to the long edge of the table, with its flank next to your body.

2

Place one arm under the dog's neck and place your hand onto the side of the head.

3

Pull the dog's head gently into your body.

4

Place your other arm over and around the dog's hindlimbs.

This technique can be used to encourage the dog to sit if it is standing, by applying gentle pressure.

5

Cradle the dog towards you, so it is supported between your arms and body. Use the minimum amount of restraint necessary to keep the dog still while ensuring you could prevent the dog biting a colleague (and yourself).

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1

Use a standing (fixed position) model dog.

Position the dog close to the edge of the table, with its flank next to your body.

2

Reach over the dog with both arms and grasp the forelimb and hindlimb closest to your body.

3

Ensure the dog is held and supported between your arms and body.

4

While supporting the dog's body against your body, swiftly and gently pull the legs away from you.

5

Lower the dog to the table, while continuing to support the dog's body against your body.

6

Once the dog is on the table, maintain your hold on the limbs to keep the dog in lateral recumbency. The limbs you are holding will be the limbs closest to the table. It may also be helpful to use your body to gently support the dog.

1. Return the model/s and booklet to the table or place where found when starting the practical.

Station ready for the next person:

Please inform a member of staff if equipment is damaged or about to run out.

Before lifting or restraining a live dog, assess the dog's temperament and decide if a muzzle should be applied ('CSL_D02 Fitting a Muzzle').

Lifting a dog onto a table
- Dogs heavier than 15kg can be lifted using a similar technique, but with one person lifting the forelimbs, and a second person lifting the hindlimbs.
- It's important to bend your knees and push up through your legs, while keeping a straight back, to prevent potential back injury. Think of it like a squat at the gym.
- Make sure you are close to the table; you don't want to carry the dog further than necessary.

Restraining a dog in a standing or sitting position
- Use the minimum restraint necessary while ensuring you and your colleague/s are safe.
- The hand placed on the head is to prevent the dog biting your colleague.
- Standing or sitting restraint is used to allow a colleague to perform a physical examination. It can be used when giving a SC or IM injection when it is very important to have a firm hold of the head.
- Some dogs prefer standing, while others will prefer sitting; if possible, do what makes the dog more comfortable.

When handling larger dogs you may want:
- To use two people; one for the front end, one for the back end.
- To restrain the dog on the floor rather than the table.
- To have a "bum stop" for sitting restraint to stop the dog shuffling backwards.

Restraining a dog in lateral recumbency
- When moving the dog from standing to lateral, it is important to move swiftly to prevent the dog struggling before they are fully supported on the table
- In larger dogs, it can be helpful to use two people to do this, one on each limb. Make sure you count (e.g. three, two, one) and move at the same time.