

Ten principles of Handling

- Principle 1:** Start with a comfortable environment.
- Principle 2:** Keep the animal from pacing, moving nervously or excitedly, squirming or suddenly trying to escape.
- Principle 3:** Support the animal well by having your hands, arms and body positioned appropriately. The pet should not feel as if he will fall or is off balance.
- Principle 4:** Be aware that physically positioning animals or asking them to perform behaviors when they are nervous, scared or confused can cause them to resist handling. Thus, when they act confused or scared, it's important to move deliberately and slowly to avoid a reflex resistance or escape behavior.
- Principle 5:** Know how to place your hands and body to control movement in any direction.
- Principle 6:** Wait until the pet is relaxed before starting a procedure.
- Principle 7:** Use the minimum restraint needed for the individual.
- Principle 8:** Avoid prolonged (more than 2 seconds) or repeated fighting or struggling.
- Principle 9:** Use distractions and rewards when appropriate.
- Principle 10:** Adjust your handling based on the animal and his response to restraint, and learn to adjust your sample-taking technique.

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