VM 568
Animal Handling & Orientation

2013 Introduction
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Five VM 568 Animal Restraint and Orientation objectives:
1. Introduce the VTH and VCS clinical faculty and staff
2. Training in safe handling and restraint in the clinical environment
3. Start clinical skill training:
   • Diagnostic process
   • Physical exam procedures
   • Basic treatment procedures
4. Introduce broader aspects of clinical practice
5. Begin engagement with intended career path information and resources

All VM 568 Animal Restraint and Orientation details are on-line
VM 568 Website - key
http://courses.vetmed.wsu.edu/vm568/
• Syllabus
  • Course objectives and official policies
• Class Notes, Resources, & Websites
  • Links to required readings & additional information
• Lecture & Lab Schedule
  • Lecture & lab reading assignments
  • Lab equipment and attire
  • Directions to locations
  • Based on clinician and VTH Section schedules
  – Will change so please check it!

Safe animal handling and restraint in the clinical environment is unique
Clinical Environment is full of:
• Unfamiliar Surroundings
• Unfamiliar Smells
• Unfamiliar Noises
• Unfamiliar Animals
• Unfamiliar People
• Unfamiliar Procedures

Safety for all parties:
• The animal being handled
• Other animals
• Others involved
• Bystanders
• You

Trigger Aggression & Fear Responses!

Philosophy is that of Professional Continuing Education
• Grading
  – Pass/Fail, no ranking
  – Show up and complete the labs, you pass
• Goal is “comfortable competence”
  – Judged by lab faculty and staff
  – If you feel you need more “hands on” time, ask the lab instructors how to arrange it
  – Students not reaching goal by semester’s end can receive an Incomplete

Understand what critters are telling you
Learn to recognize risky situations!

Could this behavior be predicted?

Behavior types:
- Protection of young
- Aggression
- Fear
- Socialization

Each species has:
- Characteristic reactions
- Clues of impending actions

Know how to avoid the bad “wrecks” involving animals and animal handling

Know the bad “Wrecks” for each species:
- What they are
- Why they happen
- What can result
- How to prevent
- Prepared for when they happen (to somebody else)

Know how to apply rope restraint correctly and efficiently

Constantly using ropes!

Prepare for clients with no restraint facilities

"Doc, we called you because he’s lame"

Veterinarians are expected to handle animals in unusual situations and emergencies

Note size of those horns
Do you see any restraint facilities anywhere?
Remember: CVM restraint facilities are better than those of many of your future clients!
Know the common animal restraint devices and how to apply them properly

Clients will spot it’s on backwards!

Learn to tie restraint knots quickly and correctly!

- Know how to tie each
  - Know how to keep from loosing fingers or limbs!
- Know why and when to use each
  - Nonslip but quick release
  - Prevent choke
  - Prevent Wrecks

Practice, Practice, Practice

Practice useful knots until you can tie them while talking without looking! (automaticity)

Quick Release Versions!

Practice! Practice! Practice!

Ex: Clove Hitches on Stocks

You will soon use clove hitches in:
LA Anatomy Stocks, Equine Clinic Stocks

Know how not to be stupid in the clinics

Clinical handling phases:
- Approach in a stall or cage
- Halter
- Move
- Perform procedure
- Hold for others
- Return to stall or cage
- Release
- Not transmitting disease!
Lack of respect for animal’s natural instincts can bring disaster!

Social obligation of all veterinarians to be alert for these circumstances

Very dangerous even with the gentlest horse!

Develop excellent personal biosafety habits to avoid transmitting infectious agents!

- ~1,400 communicable infectious agents infect humans
- 2/3’s are zoonotic
  - transmitted between man and animal
- Examples of big ones for reading about:
  - Salmonellosis
  - MRSA (Staph. aureus)
  - Cryptosporidiosis

Due to the infectious disease “Iceberg,” most infected animals cannot be detected visually!

- Most infections are subclinical
  - Typically > 10:1
- Can’t identify every infected animal without lab testing
- Important because some animals are more susceptible than normal
  - Neonates
  - Animals with other diseases

Goal: Handle all animals as if they are subclinically infected

Most important is cleaning hands frequently and effectively

To wash hands:
- Wet hands (avoid HOT water – dries skin -> cracking)
- Apply soap
- Rub hands together for at least 15 seconds
- Cover all hand surfaces
- Rinse with water and dry thoroughly
- Use a paper towel to turn off faucet

When hands are not visibly soiled, alcohol-based rubs are more effective than soap and water

Bacterial Reduction

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<th>Plain soap</th>
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<tr>
<td>180</td>
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</tbody>
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Groups with effective hand sanitation programs had 50% as many respiratory and GI episodes as others!

Segue – Buddy, the family dog

Packed for college

Flossing
Practice recognizing the “normal”

- You can't see the abnormal unless you know the normal
- Important diagnostic signs (clues) are often subtle
  – If they weren’t, clients would need us much less

Learn a systematic approach to visual appraisal

Remember:

More is missed from not looking than from not knowing!

See wrong anything here?

Learn normal and abnormal appearances

Sick!

Normal

Learn normal and abnormal postures and gaits

Why? Her hind feet hurt
Begin integrating "-ologies" into clinical context now

Begin learning on your own now about diseases and problems that interest you

Professional curriculum is a marathon, not the hurdles

Maximize your learning by recording and critiquing your activities

Use evidence-based practices to optimize your learning

Veterinary Clinics of North America are an excellent clinically-oriented review series
Actively pursue “practice readiness” in key skills

- Insufficient hours to achieve in curriculum alone!
- Identify those skills that will make you most “practice ready” in your career pathway
  - Prioritized lists in under “Expected New Graduate Competencies” in VM568 Notes & Resources
- Deliberately practice high priority ones
  - Achieving entry level competency requires ~40 hours of deliberate practice for each key skill set
  
  

Remember: “Core” is the lowest common denominator!

Fowler’s 3rd edition is the best single restraint textbook

Murray E. Fowler