

Tips & Tools to Assist With Gentle Animal Handling at Spay/Neuter Clinics

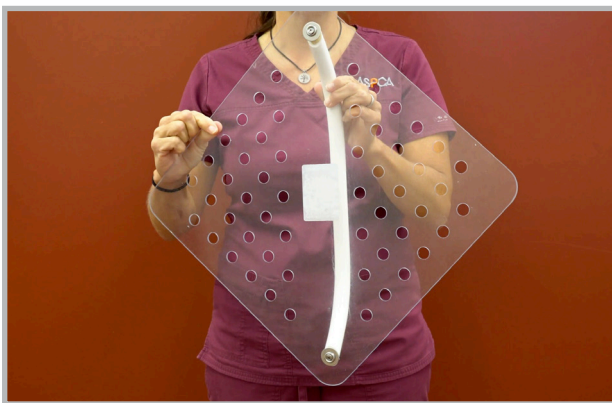


The ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance has packaged fast, easy tips to help your clinic provide a low stress environment for patients.

Reducing Patient Stress

Gentle handling is imperative in reducing a patient's overall anxiety. Decreased anxiety and stress will allow for a more uneventful pre-, intra- and post-operative period.

Cat & Small Animal Kennel Shield



Safely restrain patients in kennels with a custom-fitted Plexiglass shield. With it, the patient can be kept to the back of the kennel while an injection is safely administered through the holes.

Kitty City



Elevating cats off the floor is a proven method to help reduce their stress and anxiety during intake. It puts a buffer between them and any dogs who might be in the room. Although there are no specific guidelines for how far off the floor they should be elevated, our lowest shelf is 34 inches from the floor.

Community Cat Shelving



A shelving system is an efficient and low-stress method for housing community cats in traps. Ideal shelving would support the entire trap and be constructed from a non-porous material for ease of disinfection. Papering directly under the traps will allow for urine absorption, as well as warmth.

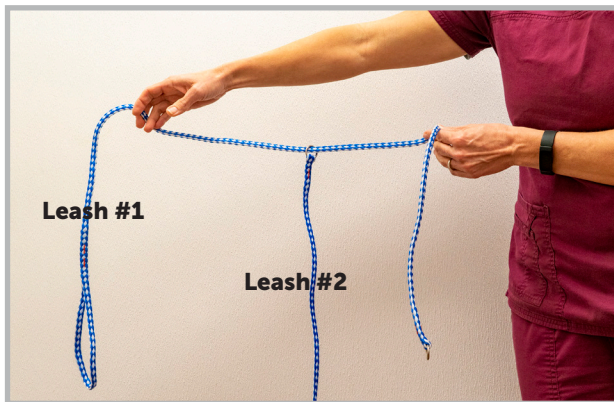
Removing Collars #1: Leash Hook



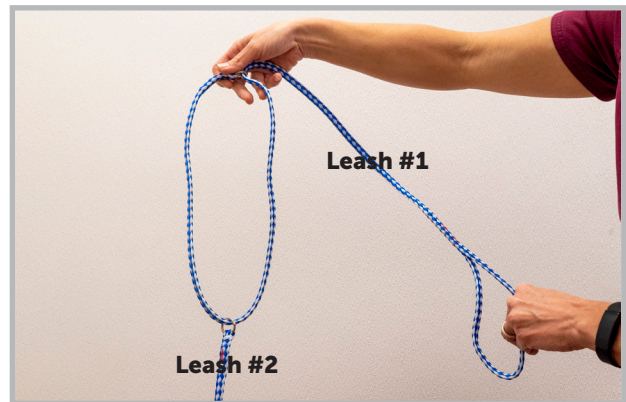
For fearful or fractious pets, a leash hook can help safely remove a leash *after* placing the pet in a cage. They can be created by simply bending a straight piece of metal, such as can be found in a large dog crate. They should be long enough (ours is approximately 24 inches long) to allow a staff member to reach into a cage or kennel without risking placing their hand too close to the dog's mouth. Keep one in each of your animal holding rooms.

Removing Collars #2: Two Slip Leashes

Some dogs do not like us reaching around their necks to remove leashes or become cage defensive after being placed in a cage. If you suspect a dog may react this way, try the following method to remove the leash once the animal is placed in the cage, using two slip leashes that each have an eyelet at the end.



1. Thread the handle of *leash #1* through the eyelet of *leash #2*.



2. *Leash #1* is used to make a loop to fasten around the animal's neck (take care not to pull on *leash #2* until the dog is secured in the cage).



3. Once the dog is in cage, pull on *leash #2* to loosen *leash #1* from around the dog's neck and pull the leash off without having to reach in around her head.