

RESPECTFUL CAT HANDLING vs. CAT WRANGLING



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PUTTING PURRSPECTIVE
INTO PRACTICE

Outline

- Improving a cat's clinic experience
 - Minimizing threats
 - Reading signals
 - Respectful & friendly handling
 - *Think like a cat*
- Compliance
 - Education - *Subtle signs of sickness*
 - Getting to the clinic (or *anywhere*) with less fuss
 - Better home care after visit



Going anywhere







What is the kitty's experience?



We are an
AAFP
Cat Friendly
Practice!



Cat Friendly
Practice
By the American Association of Feline Practitioners



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
FELINE
PRACTITIONERS®

A central graphic with a dark background. It features a close-up of a tabby cat's face with blue eyes. The text "We are an AAFP Cat Friendly Practice!" is written in white. There are two logos: one for "Cat Friendly Practice" and another for "AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF FELINE PRACTITIONERS®".



Segregate cats

- Cat-friendly waiting area
- Cat-only exam room
- Cat-only ward



www.cathealthy.ca



cat  healthy



Reserved
for cats
only

soins  félines



Réservé
exclusivement
aux chats



Handling the self-defensive cat

- How can we minimize threats?
- Threats are multi-sensory

- Sounds
- Sights
- Smells
- Tactile
- Taste

- www.feliway.com



F3 fraction

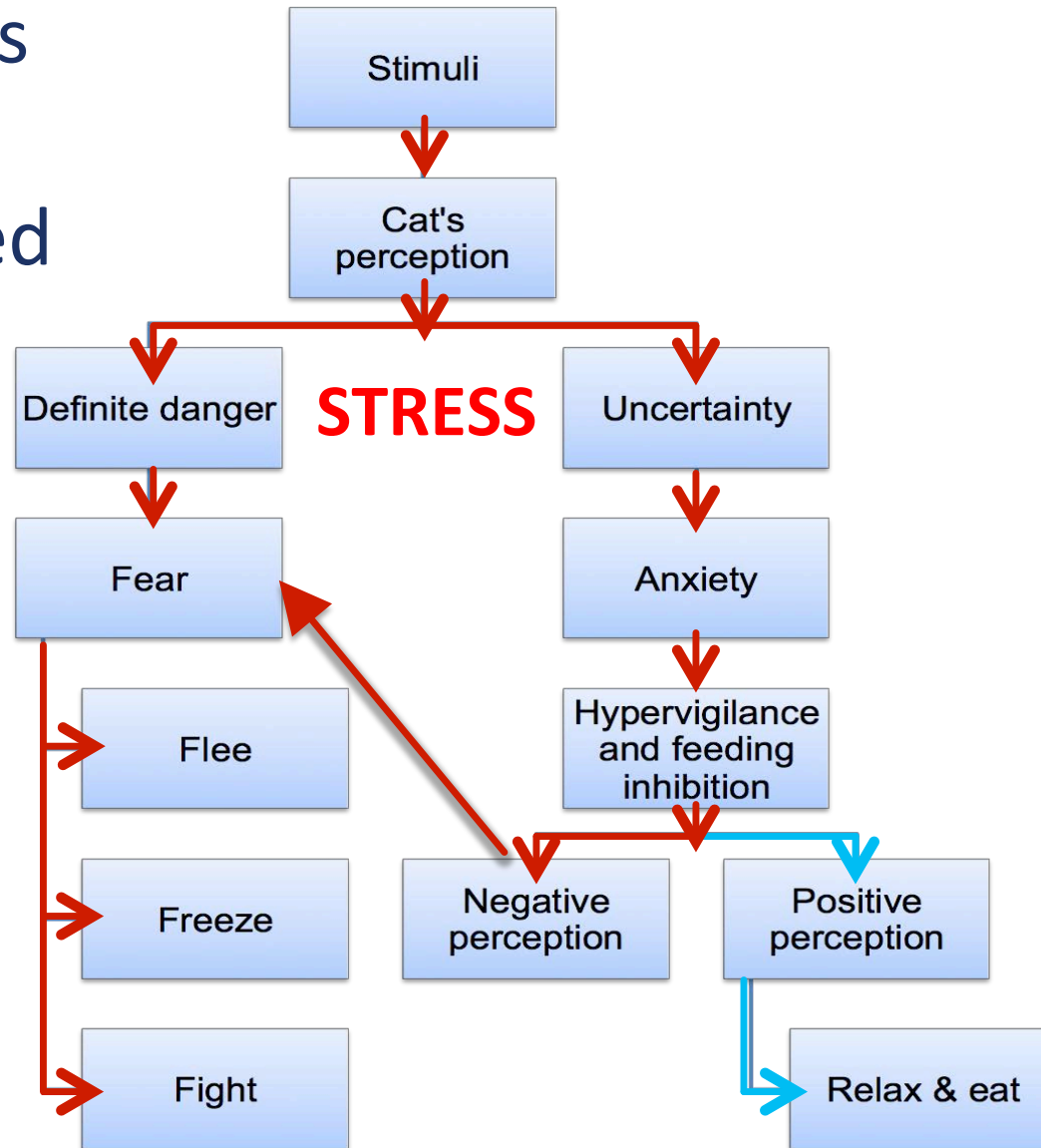
Handling the self-defensive cat

- How can we minimize threats?

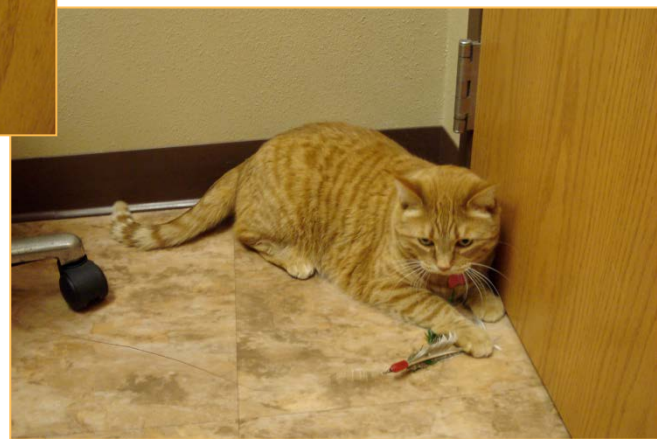
Sense	Threat	Reduce threat by?
Smells		
Sounds		
Sight		
Taste		
Tactile		



When cats
feel
threatened



Levels of fear



Levels of fear

FEAR is the # 1 cause of bad/undesirable behavior in the veterinary practice!



What is the other cause?



Invite own exploration
Don't grab, pull, shake or dump



The best place to examine or work with a cat is *where the cat wants to be!*



Dr. Mark Peterson
Animal Endocrine Clinic, NY





Allow the cat to decide where the exam will take place

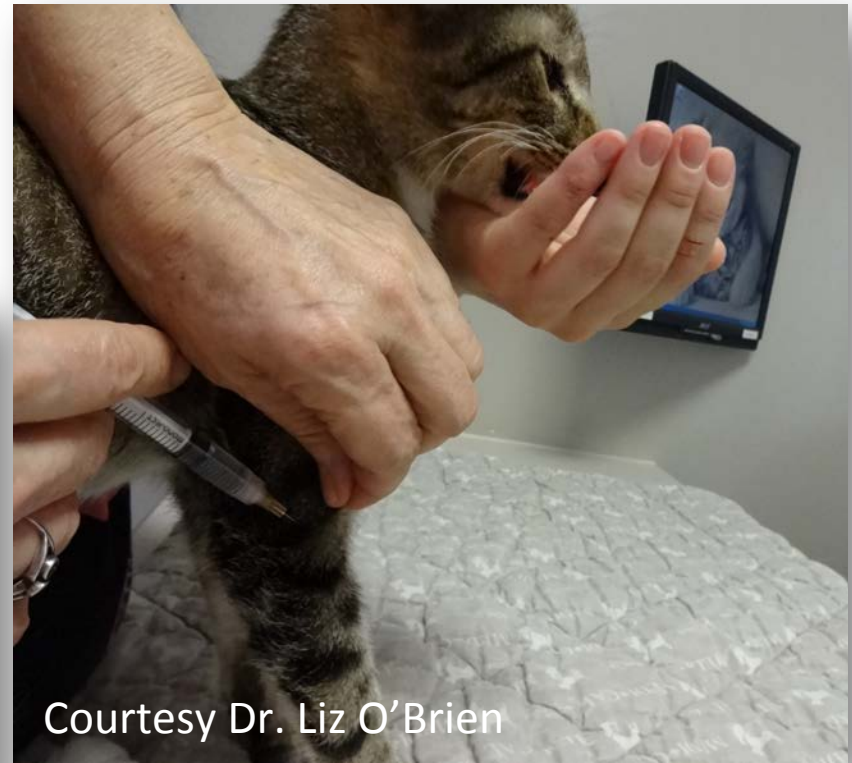


Examine the reluctant cat in the bottom of the carrier

Bribery works!



Bob and Sandy
Courtesy Dr. Susan Little



Courtesy Dr. Liz O'Brien

“Finesse rather than force”

Sophia Yin

- Forceful restraint *does not* work
- Punishment doesn't work
- Minimal restraint
 - Towels
- Face cat away from you
- “Four to the floor”



archive.longislandpress.com

Using cat signals

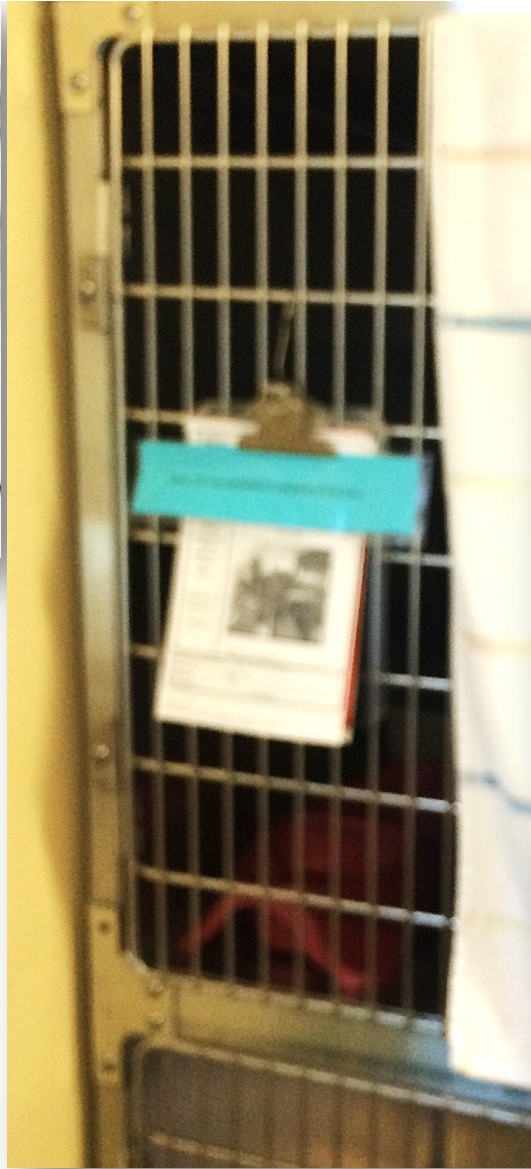
- Vocalizing (cats and people)
- Slow eye blink



Let the cat feel he has some control over his situation

- DO NOT smush the cat
- Don't scruff (very rude)
- —osis
- Don't scratch







Clients don't like how we treat their beloved cat



Enhance the examination

Narrate the exam in detail

- What you are doing
- What you are looking for
- What you find



Value is Perceived Worth





Sedation?

- Short term memory
- Ability to learn
- Gabapentin:
 - 100 mg PO 90 min before visit



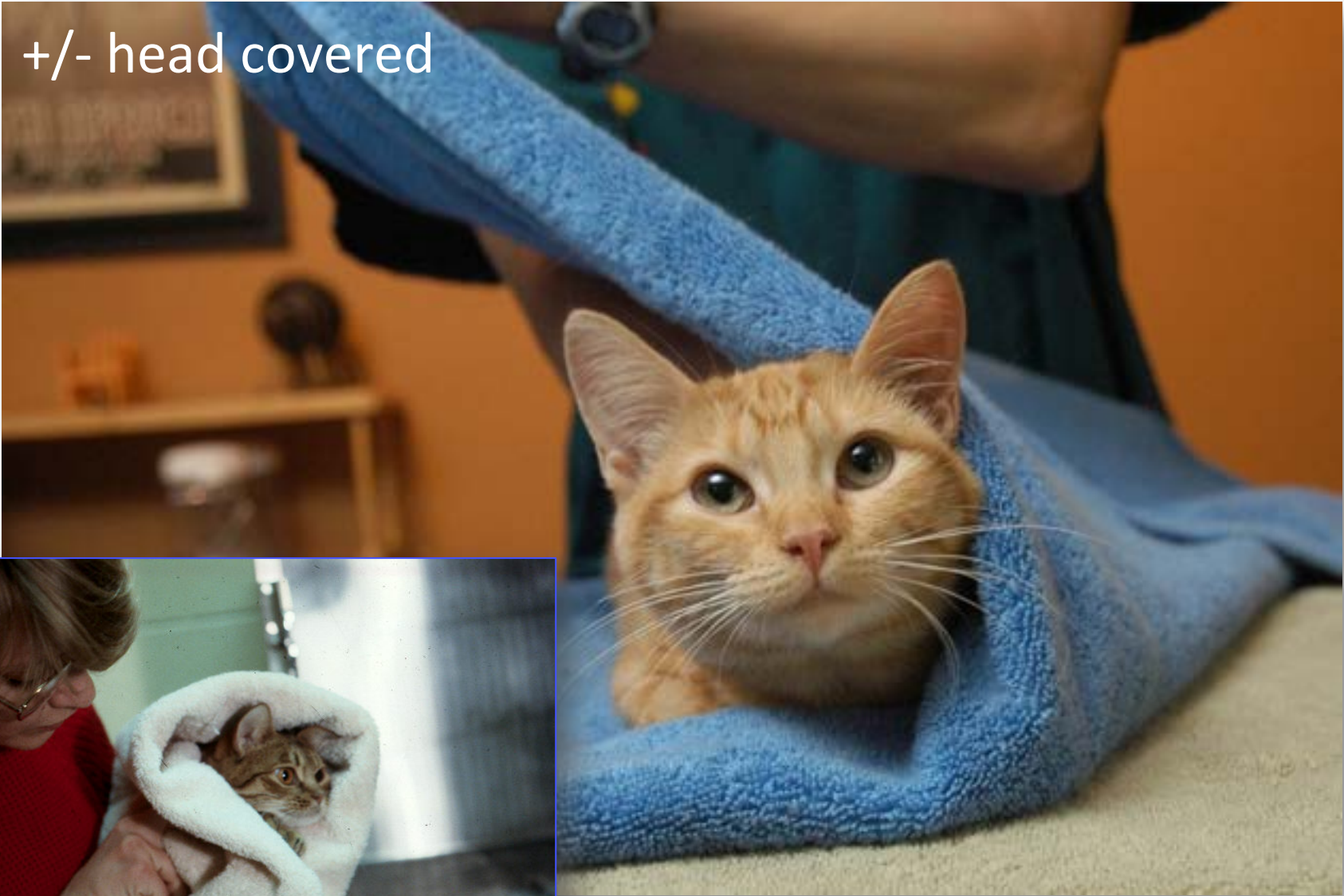
Try to avoid taking cats **“to the back”**



- Cats get acclimated to the exam room
- Better for the owner to leave than the cat

Helpful
Tips

+/- head covered



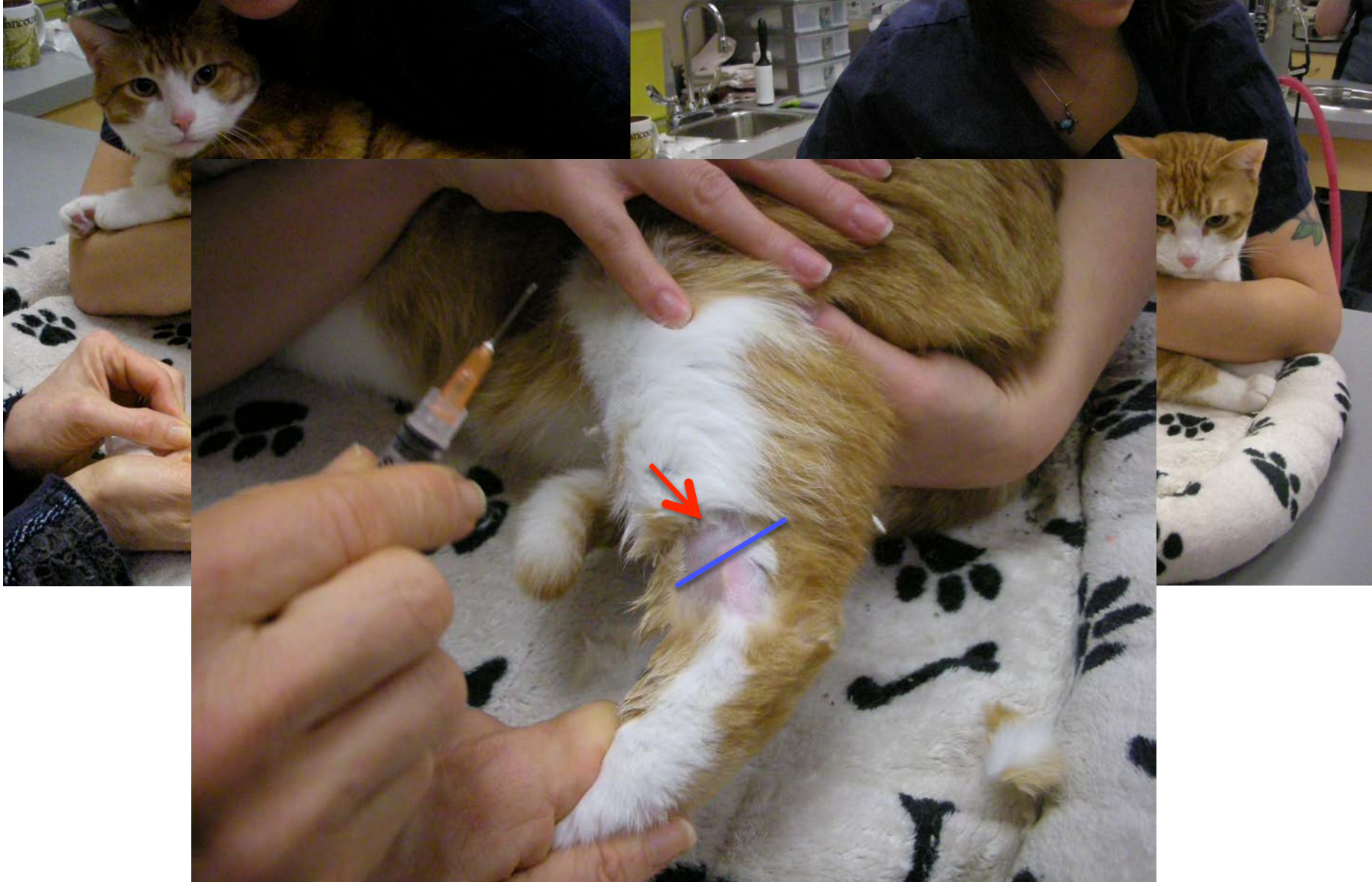
Sample collection

- Lateral recumbency +/- front end up
- Medial saphenous vein
 - Blood collection
 - Catheter placement
 - IV med administration
- Lateral saphenous vein
- Lateral cystocentesis
- Blood pressure evaluation

Choice and control



HAPPY CAT



Sample collection

- Jugular venipuncture
 - Lateral recumbency
 - Sternal with front feet on table
 - Young kittens: on their back



What sensory input is frightening?

Sight

Sound

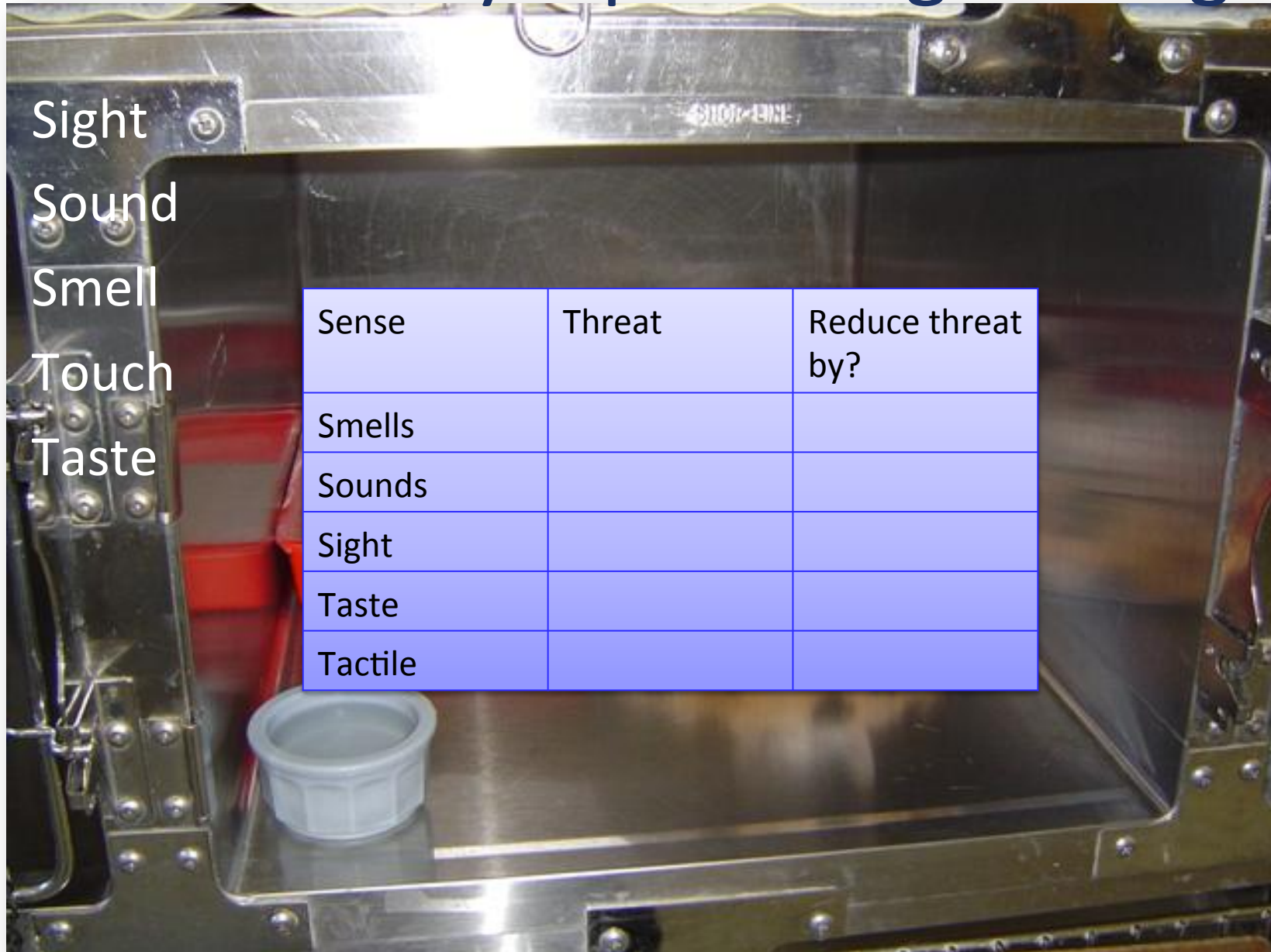
Smell

Touch

Taste

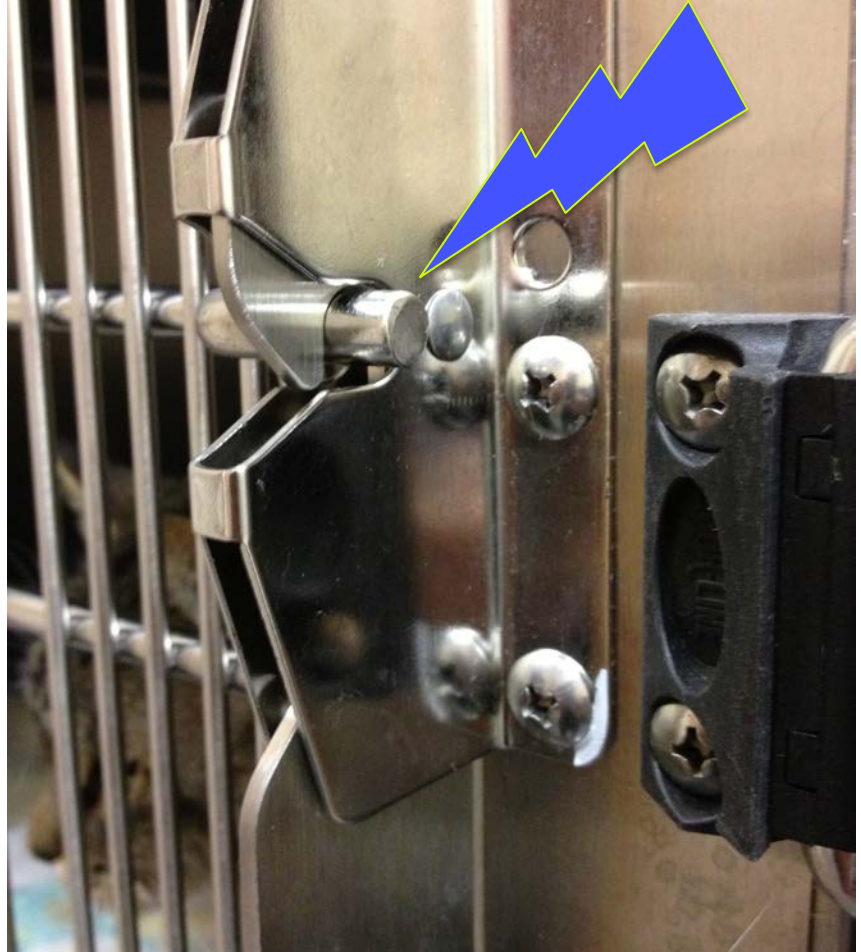


What sensory input is frightening?











Sensory contribution to fear?

Visual?

Auditory?

Tactile?

Olfactory?

Gustatory?

What happens when someone reaches in?















cattipper.com



chaseviewvets.co.uk



rexpoinite.com

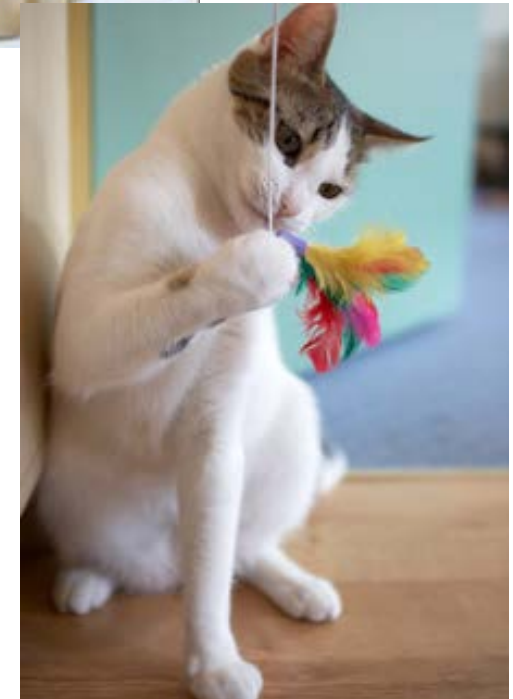


abbeywellvets.co.uk



<http://www.sPCA.bc.ca/welfare/professional-resources/catsense/>

Mental stimulation: puzzles & ipads



Mental stimulation: puzzles



Housing and treatment



- Separation from dogs is important
- Defensive and noisy cats should be kept separate so other cats don't hear them
- Don't let cats see other cats
- Maintain odour profile – 2 towels
- Don't change diets in hospital

**Reserved
for cats
only**

Other useful techniques in cats

- Agitated cystocentesis
- Endotracheal tube (pelican)
- Tracheal wash
- Ear prick PCV and BG
- Intraosseus catheterization
- Marrow aspiration
- E-tube placement
- Urethral catheterization

Improving sediment yield



Agitated cystocentesis



Intubation without a laryngoscope









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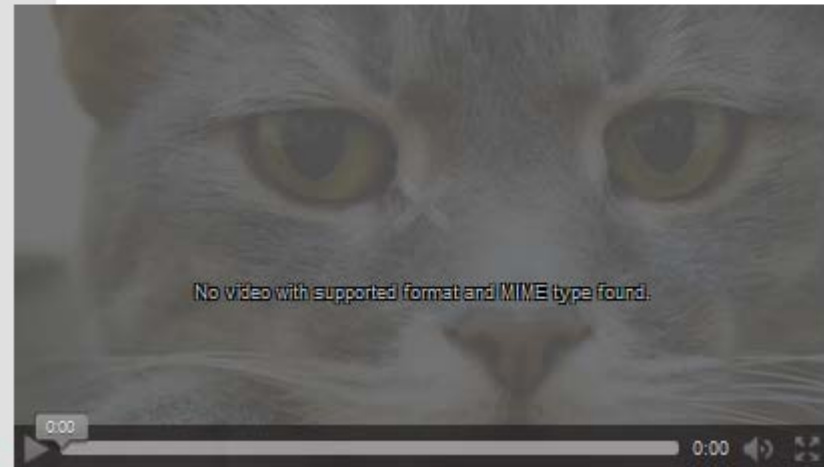
Welcome to the Cat Friendly Practice Program

The Cat Friendly Practice (CFP) program contains the tools for practices to integrate a feline perspective and embrace the standards needed to elevate care for cats.

The Cat Friendly Practice program seeks to transform and elevate the delivery of feline veterinary care by:

- Laying the groundwork for the delivery of care to the underserved feline population.
- Identifying trends and baseline species information essential for understanding cats.
- Acknowledging the essential role of the cat owner in the veterinary visit.
- Providing support to veterinarians and their teams to create a cat friendly practice environment.
- Outlining strategies for introducing changes in the delivery of care that incorporate a better understanding of the cat's distinct needs and behaviors.

Apply Now!



[Search for a Cat Friendly Practice](#)

www.catvets.com

Slow down to speed up: **TPR**

Take your time

Personalize your approach to each individual cat

Read the signs



LESS IS MORE



Imagine...

Think like a cat

Remain
compassionate

Avoid becoming
fearful or
angry

Thank you for your attention

hypurr@aol.com