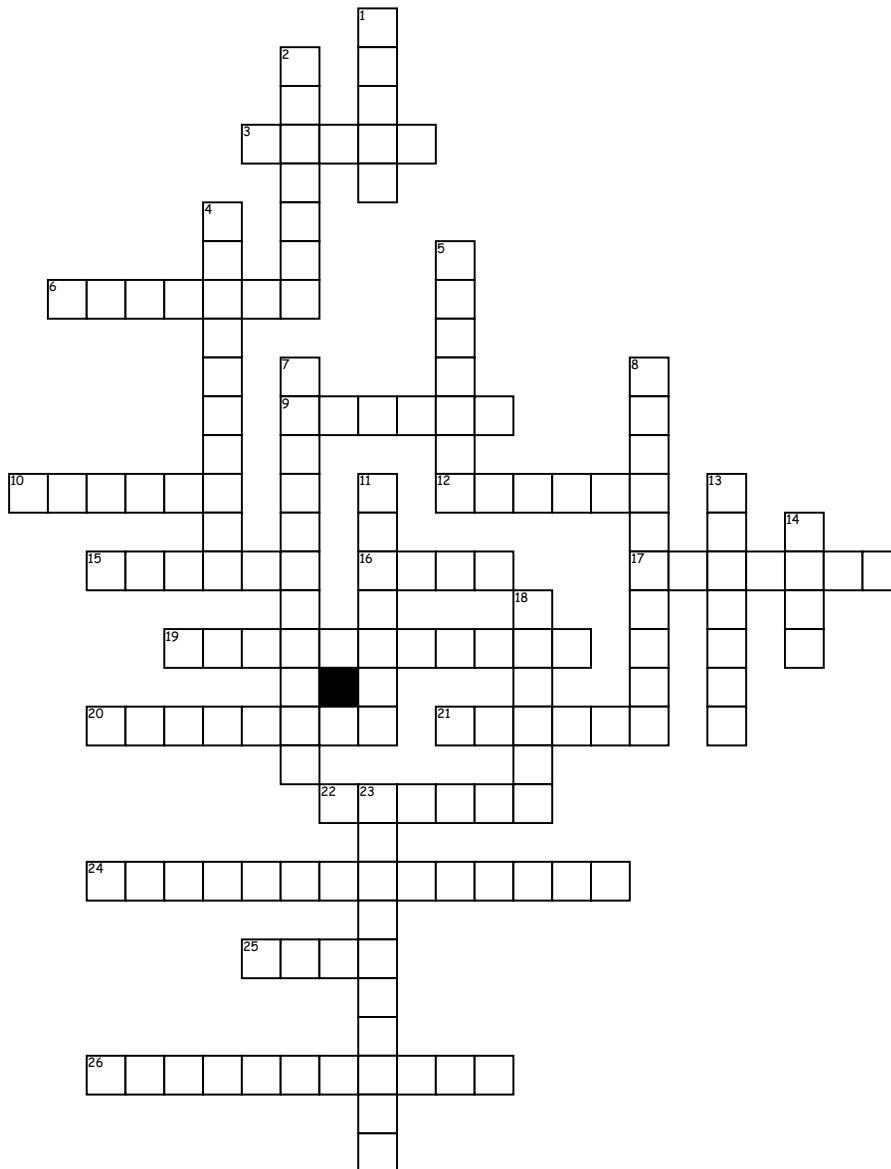


106 C: Safety in the Patient Confinement Area



Across

3. Handling and restraining this class of animals requires that you understand the different species that may frequent your clinic because different species require different techniques. For some you should have damp hands.
6. To restrain this animal, grab it by the base of the tail and allow it to stand on your other palm. They be held, but not lifted by the scruff.
9. Make sure you wash your hands before handling this animal; they may still smell of the mouse you held earlier. This animal may then mistake your hands or fingers for its lunch.
10. These animals can be held by their scruff, but should not be carried by it. Apply additional restraint by encircling its thorax area with your thumb and forefinger.
12. Control the head first by grasping the subject at the base of the head. It may help to use a plexiglas tube to accomplish this task safely.
15. When restraining this animal, always have one hand holding it under the thorax while the other is supporting its tail.
16. Remove this animal from its cage by grasping the base of its tail and lifting it onto the exam table. For restraint, grasp the subject around the rib cage, just under the forelimbs, but do not squeeze.
17. These animals are very sensitive and easily frightened. They may try to escape by kicking out with their back feet, and this can cause them injury.
19. These animals are often obese with very short necks, so there is hardly a good place to grasp them. Use a towel or a leash and harness to restrain them. Look out for the bite.
20. These animals can be picked up safely by either cupping your hands around them or by scooping them into a paper cup.

21. Not only may these animals give you a painful or poisonous bite, they sometimes may carry salmonella. Handle with care.
22. Get hit by this animal's tail and you will surely have a whelp or bruise.
24. Never lift this subject by the hind legs.
25. Never pick these animals up by the tail, because the skin of the tail can be easily pulled off.
26. With these patients, you must avoid the beaks and claws. Never wear gloves as they make it difficult for you to feel the pressure you are applying.

Down

1. The skin on this animal is extremely delicate. Certainly with some species, you should avoid touching the skin if at all possible. Even minor handling can do major damage.
2. These critters are easy to handle safely. Just be aware that some do bite. So use towels to cover the head, then grasp this subject by its hind legs or tail.
4. You can do harm if you try to hold this animal by the middle or tip of its tail. Instead, using one hand, grasp the base of the tail and crook your fingers around to control the hind legs. Then place the other hand over its back to add control.
5. Minimal restraint should be used with these animals. Remember, however, they are very fast and can twist and maneuver easily--and they have sharp teeth.
7. To safely handle this animal, dim the lights in the room and place a towel over its head. Wrap another towel around its body and hold it close to your body to limit its freedom of movement.
8. Watch out for the beak! Turn out the lights and reach into the cage to get your index finger and your middle finger on either side of the subject's neck.

11. These little animals are prone to seizures. So, avoid sudden movements or loud noises. Excessive stimulation can cause a seizure to occur.
13. When carrying this animal, you can scruff it at the back of the neck, but be sure to support its hindquarters with your other hand.
14. Put this animal on top of its cage or other wire mesh surface. Gently pull its tail and it will grasp at the mesh. You can then easily grasp it by the scruff of the neck.
18. Another restraining method with this animal is to hold it in a baseball grip over the top of its pectoral and pelvic region. Use your elbow to support its tail.
23. These animals tend to be very docile. Grasp their bodies with one hand and support the hindquarters with the other.