



Cats have been shown to display **fewer negative responses to passive restraint** compared to full-body restraint, scruffing, and clipnosis clips.

## What is passive restraint?

Passive restraint is when the cat is held lightly with the least amount of restraint possible, in a position of the cat's choosing (standing, sitting, or lying).

The cat is allowed movement of their head, body, and limbs.



## What is full-body restraint?

Full-body restraint can include when a cat is held on their side with their back against the handler, while the handler grasps the front and back legs, with a forearm across the cat's neck. The cat is allowed little to no movement of their head, body, or limbs.



## What is scruff and clip restraint?

Scruff restraint involves tightly grasping the cat's skin and fur at the back of the neck using one hand and holding the cat's skin in a fist. The cat is allowed minimal movement of the body and limbs.

Clip restraint involves the application of one or two "clipnosis" clips to the dorsal neck area to bring together the skin and fur.

See [Education on welfare harm from scruff clips.](#)





## Handling & restraint methods depend on cat's demeanor



### When restraining calm cats

- Use passive and minimal restraint techniques



### When restraining fearful cats

- Use passive, minimal, or loose towel techniques to cover or wrap the cat which can help keep the cat calm while protecting the handler

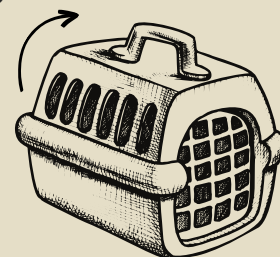
## What if...



### A cat does not come out of the carrier

- Wait to see if the cat comes out on their own
- Try luring the cat out with treats
- Avoid grabbing the cat to pull them out of their cage or carrier
- Do not tip the carrier up on its end to shake the cat out or for the cat to fall out
- Avoid the use of cat bags, nets, and gloves with calm cats
- Reach in and support the cat's back end, abdomen, and back legs to encourage the cat to move forward
- If the cat acts in a fearful manner, gently slide a towel around the cat to remove them
- Avoid escalating fear in the cat
- Discuss carrier choice with the client

### Carrier design



- ✓ Removable top
- ✓ Sturdy
- ✓ Allows some feeling of hiding (not totally clear/open sides)







## Towel wrapping

If you need to restrain a cat, towel wrapping can be used with the following steps:

### Step 1



Start by placing the cat several inches from the front edge of the towel, about a foot (30 cm) in from one side

### Step 2



Wrap the short side of the towel snugly around the cat's neck, like a scarf

### Step 3



Pull the short side of the towel over the cat, so their entire body is covered, except for the face

### Step 4



Pull the front edge of the towel forward, which will wrap under the cat's neck

### Step 5



Once the towel is wrapped all the way around, grab the other side and pull it over the cat, making sure that it's snug in place

### Step 6



Finally, wrap any loose ends around the cat to ensure they are safe and snug. Avoid pulling too tightly to ensure the cat still has some mobility