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RESTRAINING TECHNIQUES IN FARM ANIMALS



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INTRODUCTION

Animal restraint is the process of preventing an animal or group of animals from action or motion, for example flight or attack for various purposes. An animal may require restraint for examination, treatment, milking etc. Restraint can be achieved simply by moral persuasion or by physical force or by chemical means.

Most of the restraint methods that employ physical force or the use of cane have been outmoded being unnecessarily difficult and dangerous to the handler and the animal.

This bulletin is meant to teach basic restraining techniques in farm animal with the hope that it will be useful to you and your animals.

BASIC ROPE WORK

Before you attempt to restrain an animal, especially large animals, you must be familiar with basic rope work. (Figure 1) You should be able to tie quickly the commonly used knots. You can easily learn about knots which are essential for day-to-day usage from an experienced friends or animal health attendants.

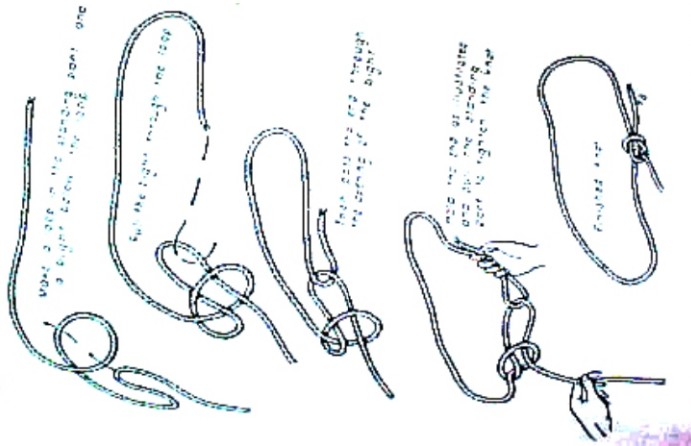


Figure 1 Technique of making bowline knot

The bowline knot is one of the most useful of all knots. It never slip and therefore can be used to make a loop or noose, which will not ‘draw down’ or tighten on the neck of your animal.

RESTRAINING TECHNIQUES FOR CATTLE

Cattle restraint techniques are designed to divert attention from where you want to treat and prevent kicking and make possible some special procedure.

1. Nose Lead technique

Lift the animal’s head fairly high and pull towards the side opposite that on which you intend to work. Apply pressure on the

bridge between the nostrils to cause temporary pain in the sensitive tissues between the nostrils.

2. Heads Restraint technique

Manually grasp the bridge between the nostrils with the thumb and forefinger of one hand and hold it firmly. With the other hand, hold the horn rear.

3. Ear twitch technique

Ear twitches are easy to make and are very effective. On a one foot length of a strong bar tie the loose end of 1.5 feet length of soft rope. Apply and twist the twitch on the ear lobe carefully and firmly to exact little pressure on the ear lobe. Apply enough pressure only to elicit pain that can divert the animal's attention. Always treat the ear lobe with caution so as not to damage the ear cartilage.

4. Milking Hopples technique

Apply the figure "8" just above the hock to prevent kicking while milking.

Hock twitch is the milkers delight. It prevents a cow from raising the rear legs and thus prevents kicking. It is simple and effective. Get a rope made of heavy cotton between 18-22 inches around the hind legs just above the hock joint in figure of "8" pattern crossing between the two legs. A strong stick or piece about a foot long is put through the eye by turning the stick, the rope is twisted until it binds

the legs tightly and presses the tendon down. Thus it prevents the animal raising its legs and make milking possible. (Figure 2)

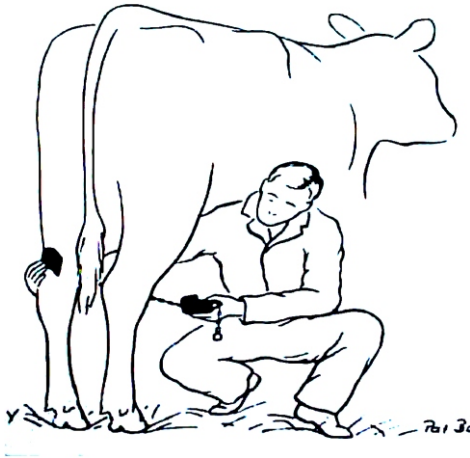


Figure 2. Milking restraint in cows using hopple

5. Legs raising technique

First apply a nose lead. Grasp the legs at the pastern with the left hand, With the left shoulder push the cow's flank to shift her leg to the other near legs, at the same time raise the rear leg.

6. Tail restraining technique

Your assistant may apply the tail restraint whenever it is necessary to distract cow's attention from another part of her body on which work is being done. It may be used when giving udder injections to a nervous cow. Keep both

hands close to the base of the tail as much as possible. Stand to the side of the cow to avoid being kicked and apply a lifting force on the tail. It should be gentle but firm. (Figure 3)

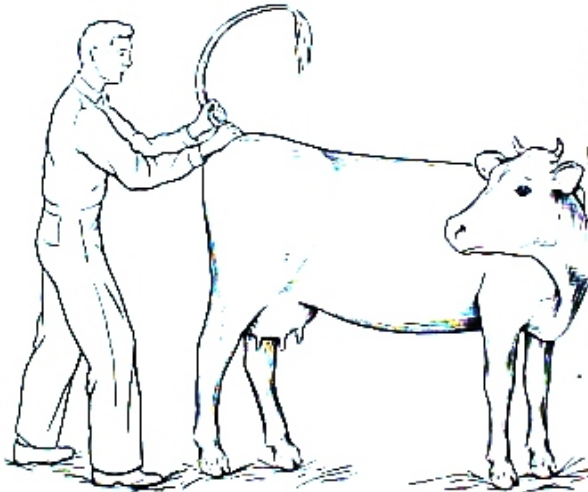


Figure 3 Techniques of tail restraint to divert cow's attention

7. Crush restraining technique

If many adult cattle are to be confined at a time, a crush is most advised. Get the entire animals close together. Use the person most familiar with the cows to go close to them then to the animal in question. It is always advisable to hold a long rope that has a loose note at one end. Go as close to the cattle as possible and get the rope into the head or horns. With the rope in place it will be easier to lead and finally restrained.

8. Calves restraining technique

Reach across the animal's back and pull the legs on the side closest to you outward. Calve is then eased down to the ground with the weight against your

legs, so that it falls to the ground gently. You should never cast a calf by pulling its leg quickly from under its body so that he falls hard on its side. A very young animal, it may be injured in that way. (Figure 4 - 6)

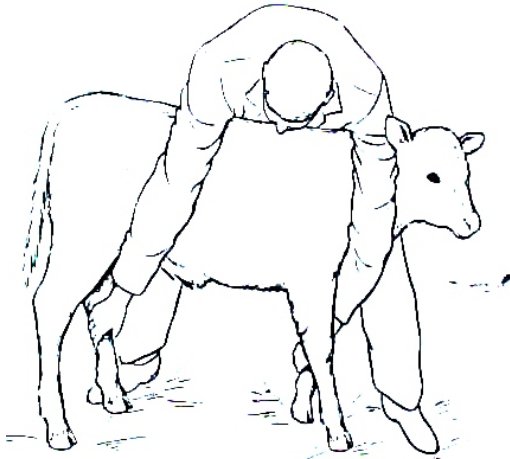


Figure 4 Step I in calf restraining



Figure 5: Step II in calf restraining

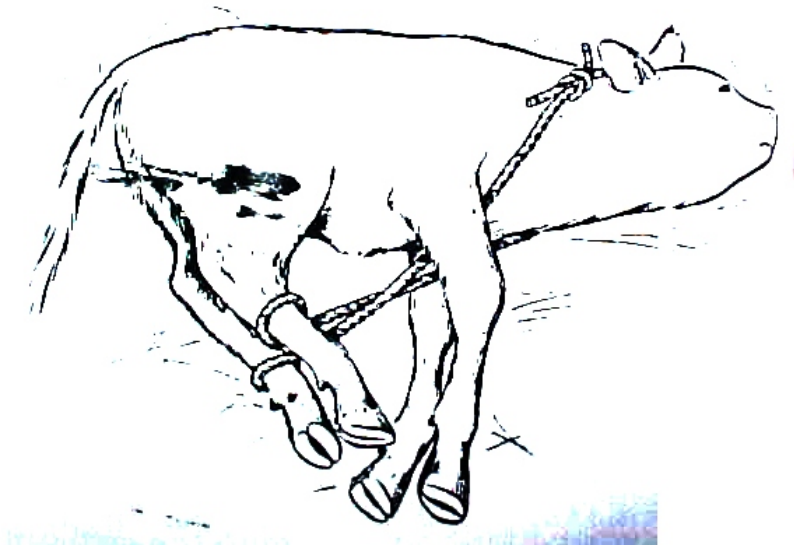


Figure 6 Step III in calf restraining

Keep your knees against the calf's back to hold it down. Place the center of your rope over its back legs. Bring both ends back between the legs, cross the two ends and carry them between the front legs. Take the rope over the back of the neck.

Getting the children of the herds men to catch them best does catching the calf in the open. Again catching calves at the head or hind legs is best. Like adult cattle, calves are best caught amidst themselves.

9. Heifers restraint technique

Persons most familiar with them best, restrain the heifers. With one hand hold a horn or the ear. Hold the ear at its base and apply all the pressure of your hand against the head. (Figure 7) The ear should merely pass between the thumb and forefinger and should not be squeezed. Place the other hand under the heifer's chin, grip the lower lip and hold her head steadily against your hip. The heifer can then be examined or treated.



Figure 7 Heifer restraint method

How to make temporary halter.

The temporary halter is used when a permanent halter is not available.

To make halter, loop the rope around the cow's neck and secure the loop with a bowline knot. Make a bight in the standing long part of the rope. Pass the bight through the loop and over the nose.

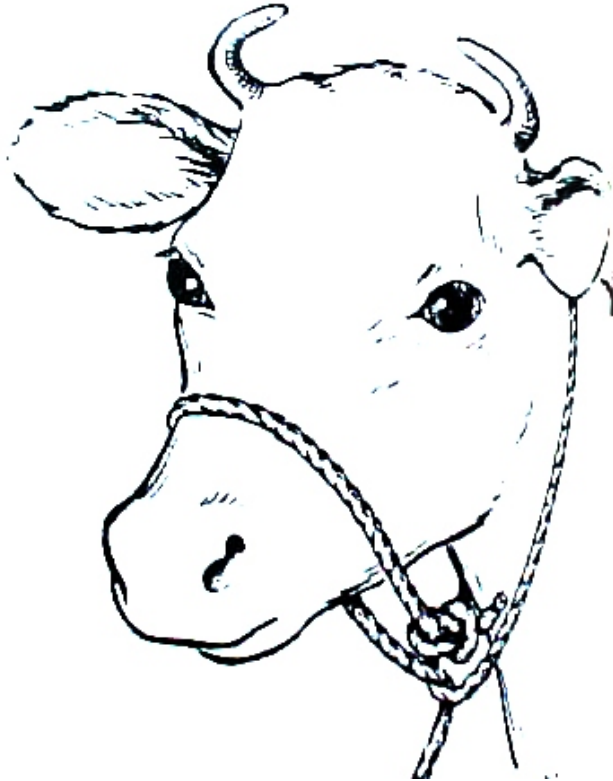


Figure 8: Cow on temporary halter

RESTRAINING TECHNIQUES FOR SHEEP AND GOATS

Catching and holding Sheep and Goats

Sheep and goats are easily to catch in an enclosure. The one to be caught is place along with few others into the enclosure. Move toward the animal slowly and catch the one you want by the leg or horn. Two to five persons may be required to successfully control a large herd of sheep or goat in an enclosure.

Lamb and Kids are caught in enclosures by catching their hind legs. Ewes and does with lamb or kids are best caught by first catching their young ones. This method can be employed in both open and in an enclosure.

Restraining sheep and goat for Examination.

Do not attempt to keep sheep or goat from moving by pulling on its head, horn or hide. He will quickly become excited and resist. Merely keep a gentle pressure with the hand under the jaw with the left arm to prevent forward movement and the right arm around its back will stop backward movement. (Figure 9)

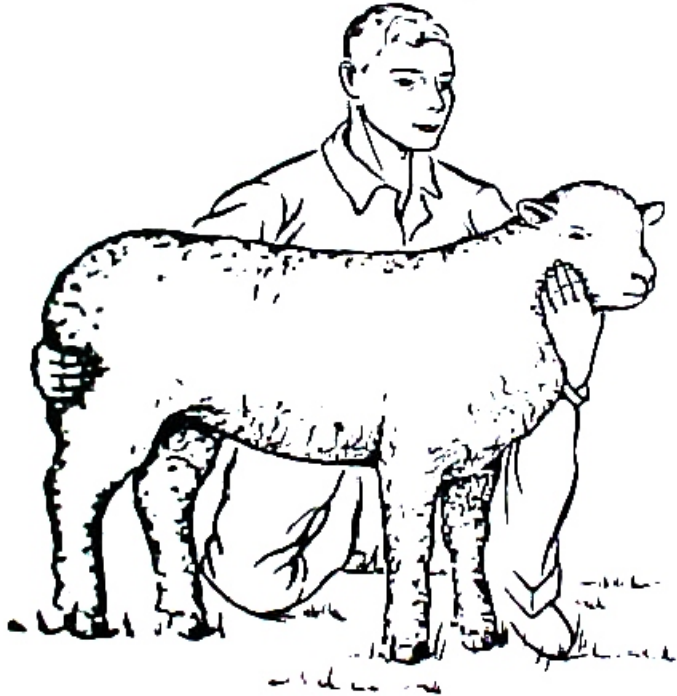


Figure 9 A sheep properly restrained for examination.



Figuer 10: Restraint for drenching

Restraining a sheep or goat in-between the legs with one hand supporting the head. The method demonstrated above is an excellent way to treat large flocks. (Figure 10) With a good assistant and effective handling restraint several hundred sheep can be drenched in an hour.

Hoof trimming and vaccination Restraints.

Sheep or goat should be set up on their rump. If they are to be vaccinated in the groin, it will be sufficient restraint to tilt him backward so that he is off balance. (Figure 11)



Figure 11: Restraint for hoof examination in sheep

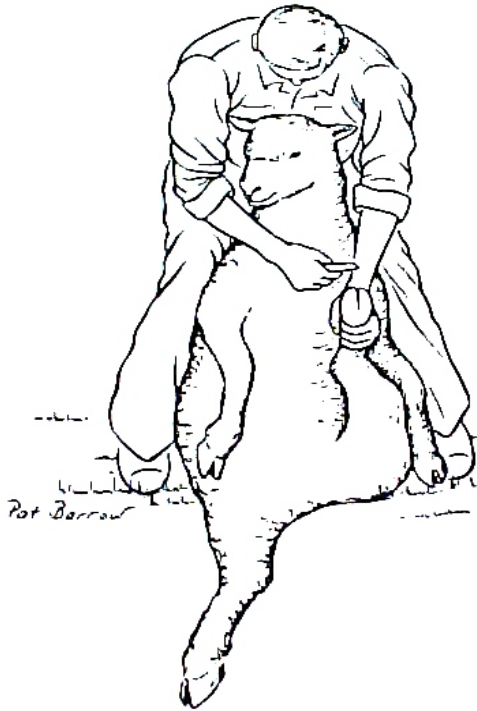


Figure 12: Restraint for hoof trimming in sheep

Sheep or goats should be held the same way for hoof trimming or for vaccination in the groin where the clean free skin is available for the needle puncture. (Figure 12)

RESTRAINING TECHNIQUE FOR PIGS

Pigs are stubborn animals. They have definite ideas of their own and are extremely individualistic. Every pig is different from the other. What apply to one may not apply to the other in the same pen or herd. Pigs may look hard to you in appearance, they are not strong enough when you subject them to rough handling especially the way you do to ram and goats. Also the legs are thin and rather fragile when you use catch and restrain a pig for a very long time.

Pigs are not gentle either. Even the piglets are capable of biting your fingers off if you frighten them.

As a rule make pigs as comfortable as possible even under restrain. When large herds are to be controlled, it is advisable to have their pen as clean and dry as possible. The Pen should be in order several days before they are handle. If the pen is clean and fresh beddings supplied and the Pigs have a dried up environment and they will be easier to maneuver.

Pig can be restrained by two methods

(A) Catching method (Figure 13 - 15)

1. Hurdling: Trap the pigs between solid barriers to restrict movement of the pigs. Catch the large ones among

the pigs with pig catcher rope when trapped. It is advisable to handle young one with care in order not to cause dislocation of the bones.

2. Trap or confinement

Individual pigs may be driven into confinement and selectively restrained with effective use of rope.

3. Pig Catcher

Catch the rear legs in the clamp of the pig catcher and pull the rope to hold it, tight around the legs.

4. Use of Bucket

Move a large pig covering its face with buckets and moving it in the reverse direction.

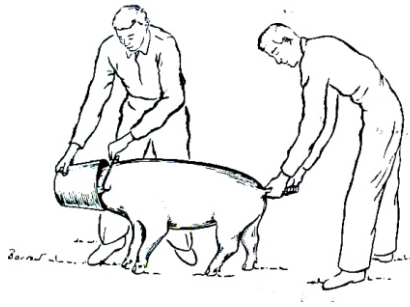
5. Snubbing rope

The rope behind the tusks is snubbed to a post as the pig pulls back.

(B) Special restraint method

1. Hug snare twitch

The twitch used for pigs is usually made up of a very long pole with a wire loop. Place the twitch over the upper jaw behind the tusks and apply gentle but firm pressure that is painful enough to prevent resistance or backward movement.



**Figure 13: Moving a large Pig with the Face covered catching a piglet
With bucket or blanket**

Figure 14: Catching a large Pig



**Figure 15
Holding a Piglet**



POULTRY RESTRAINTS

Carrying a Large Turkey

A Large turkey can be carried as illustrated below. Their wings are held against its body so that it is they are unable to flop its wings. Part of the weight is supported on your hip. Both legs are held firmly in one hand. (Figure 16)



Figure 16: A large turkey in a comfortable carriage position

Turkey's breast can be supported on the table and its legs pulled backward and held with one hand. The bird is held securely, body well balanced, and rest calmly on the table.

Holding a small Bird

Pigeons, Quail and other small birds should be picked up and held in one hand. (Figure 17-18). The finger should be extended across the birds back to hold down both wings. When transporting small birds for long distances, they should be in cages. Don't carry small birds by the wings. Never use bird's wing as Handles. The wings are fragile and can easily be fractured. The wings can only be used to lift birds. The wings are so large and handy that it is tempting to use them as handles. This temptation should be resisted.

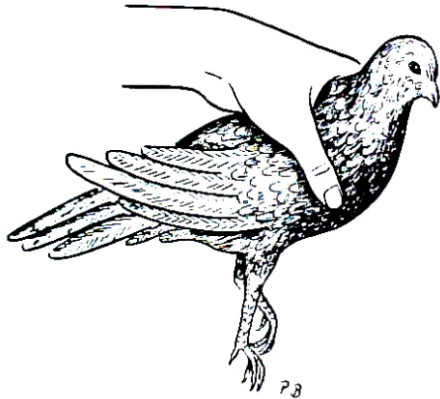


Figure 17: Holding a small Bird for examination

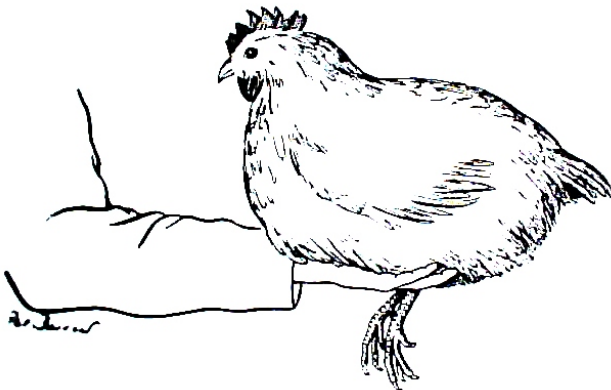


Figure 18: Holding chicken in one hand for Examination

Hold the chicken in one hand. Pass your middle finger between its legs and the other fingers slightly spread apart to support the body. You can use your other hand to work the feather for examination for parasites or scoring of body conditions.

Free hand Restraint of Chicken in one place

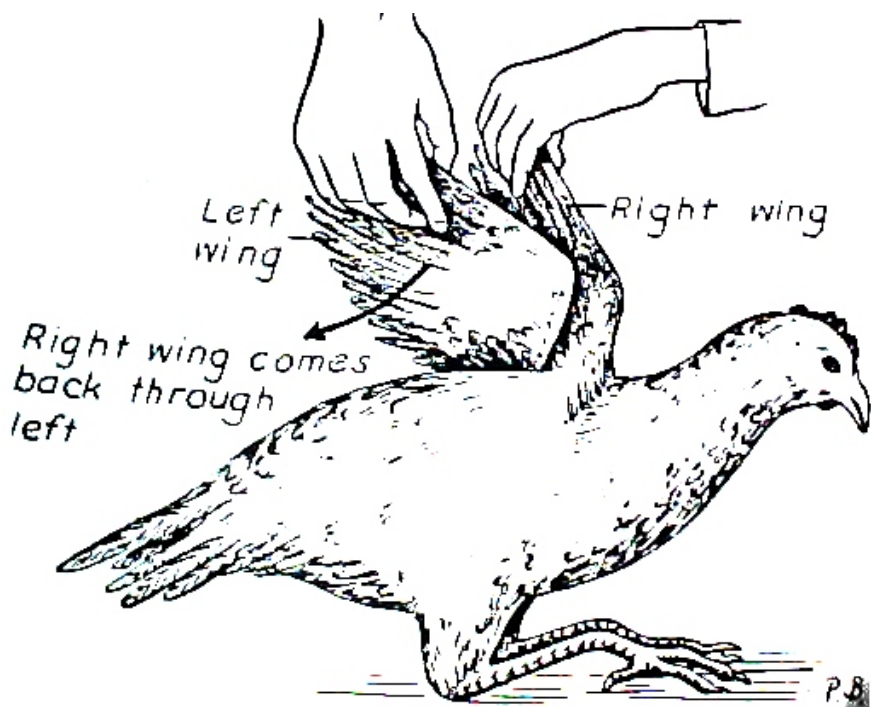


Figure 19: Chicken with wings crossed

To keep a chicken in one position and fairly still its wings can be crossed. They will stay in this position for a short time, but eventually the bird will free itself.

DOG RESTRAINING TECHNIQUES

Dogs are companion animals. They are part of the family as such they should be calm, friendly and completely trustworthy in your own hand. They should equally be trained to obey your voice and take instruction with ease. You should as a matter of fact be able to carry out some basic restraint on them without injuring yourself or the dog. If you train your dog well enough, they should obey you. (Figure 20-21)

However, you should be careful never to surprise a dog. You should be sure that the dog not only sees you approaching but hears you as well; especially when a stranger is to assist you attend to your dog. You should always watch for indications of the mood of your dog before you do anything. Do not take the unawares or by surprise.

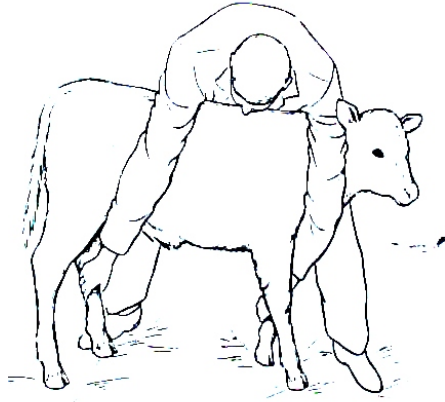


Figure 4 Step I in calf restraining



Figure 5: Step II in calf restraining

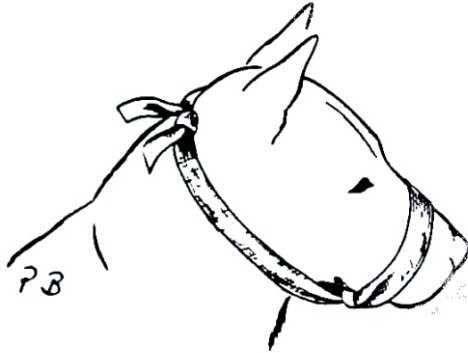


Figure 22: Dog restrained with temporary muzzle

Temporary Muzzle tie is used to prevent dog from biting when you bath, give injection or treat injuries. A dog cannot be given medicine orally when muzzled with bandage

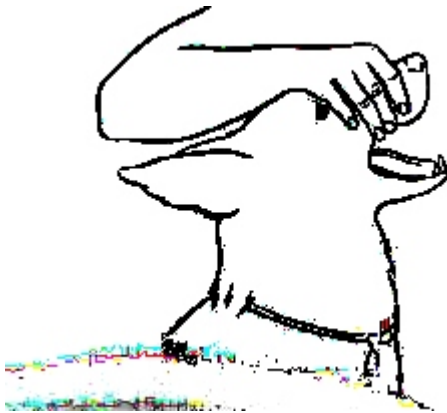


Figure 23 Giving a Pill to Dog

When giving liquid food or medicine to your dog, never open the mouth too wide else it will waste most of it. Instead hold the mouth with your right hand gently if the dog allows you. Pull out the loose skin of its lips at the corner of its mouth. Pour the liquid from a spoon or small plastic bottle or syringe into the space between the lips and teeth. If the dog holds the liquid in his mouth and tries to spit it out, tilt the nose upwards slightly to encourage swallow or work your hand on the neck region.

RESTRAINING TECHNIQUES FOR RABBITS



Figure 24: Lifting a Fryer Rabbit

A small rabbit may be lifted and carried comfortably if you hold him as shown below. You should hold it gently but firmly. This method of carrying a rabbit will prevent bruising the flesh or damage to the skin. **(Figure 24)**

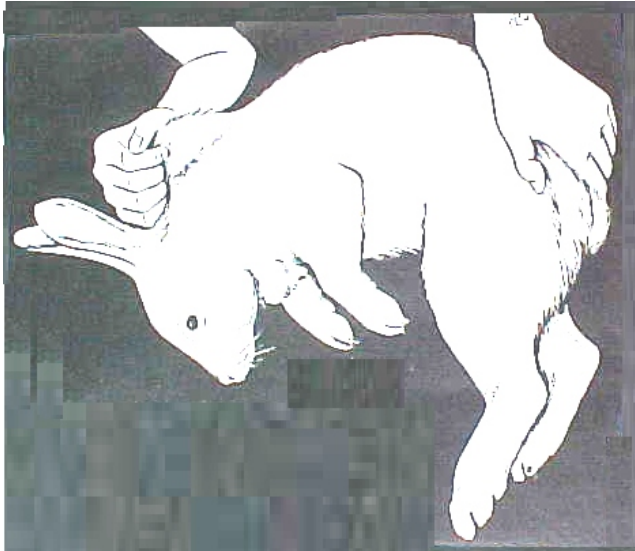


Figure 25: Lifting a medium weight Rabbit

You should hold an adult rabbit with his back to you and his feet away from you. **(Figure 25)** With one hand carefully hold a fold of skin over the shoulder. Place the other hand under the rabbit body. By this method, you can support the entire weight of the animal.

Carrying a heavy Rabbit

With your right hand, hold a fold of skin over the rabbits shoulder. Tucked the head under your left arm and its body wedged between your forearm and side. Support the weight with your hip and your left hand held under the rump.**(Figure 26)**



Figure 26:Carrying a heavy Rabbit

A heavy rabbit may be carried comfortably in this position without struggle or scratch. No Rabbit, large or small should ever be lifted by his ears. The ears are so large that it is tempting to use them as handles. This temptation

Restraining Techniques for Rabbit breeder

When it is time to breed rabbits, It is better to take the female rabbit to the male for service. Female rabbits (Doe) don't like having another rabbit in her own hutch. She will attack and injure the buck if he appears in her hutch. Some does, no matter where they are placed will not accept service and must be restrained for mating.

To restrain such A Doe, hold a fold of skin over the shoulder and her ears in your right hand. Place your left hand under her body and between the hind legs. (Figure 27-28)



Figure 27: Restrained Doe for mating (Side view)



Figure 28 Restrained Doe for mating (Rear view)

Place your thumb on the right side of the vulva and the index finger on the left side and the skin pushed gently backward. This will cause the doe to raise her tail up over her back. Support her weight with your left hand and lift her hindquarters to the normal height for services.

Always hold a fold of skin over the shoulder and her ears in your right hand. Place your left hand under her body and support the weight with your body.

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