

**RESOLUTION #16—2023
Regular Annual Session**

Submitted by
Board of Directors

REVISED POLICY ON PHYSICAL RESTRAINT OF ANIMALS

RESOLVED that the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) House of Delegates adopt the revised policy on Physical Restraint of Animals as noted in [attachment 1](#) (additions are underlined, deletions are ~~struck through~~).

Statement about the Resolution

The Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) reviewed the policy on Physical Restraint of Animals, taking into consideration the welfare aspects of animals affected by this policy.

The policy's overall focus has remained unchanged, with an emphasis on the importance of monitoring and the veterinarian's expertise in physical restraint of an animal(s). The changes made, albeit minor, are critical as they ensure that animal(s) receive appropriate monitoring throughout a procedure that may require physical restraint. Similarly, the AWC found it prudent to include other methods and alternatives to physical restraint when deemed possible to ensure the highest level of animal welfare and safety to the handler(s).

After careful review and consideration, the AWC determined that these clarifying changes align the policy with the current approach to the physical restraint of animals and recommends approval.

Financial Impact: None

	Board of Directors	House Advisory Committee	Reference Committee #3	House of Delegates
Recommend Approval	X	X	X (as amended)	X (amended as noted below)
Recommend Disapproval				
Recommend Referral to...				
No Recommendation				
Recommend Postpone Indefinitely				

(use this space for additional narrative, if needed)

***Revised Policy on Physical Restraint of Animals**

Amendments to Attachment 1:

- 1 - Strike "physical restraint is" and replace it with "handling may include" in the first sentence.
- 2 – Insert the sentence "Restraint methods chosen should be tailored to respect the behavior of the species and the animals being treated." at the end of the first paragraph.
- 3 - Strike "acclimated" and replace it with "exposed" in the first sentence of the last paragraph.
- 4 – Strike "personnel" and replace it with "people" in the third sentence of the first paragraph on page 2.