

Restraint, & Handling for Mice and Rats



Purpose

The purpose of this workshop is to inform and instruct personnel on the safe and the least stressful way to restrain and inject mice and rats.

This workshop will illustrate proper restraint while administering injections to commonly used sites.



Handling and Restraint

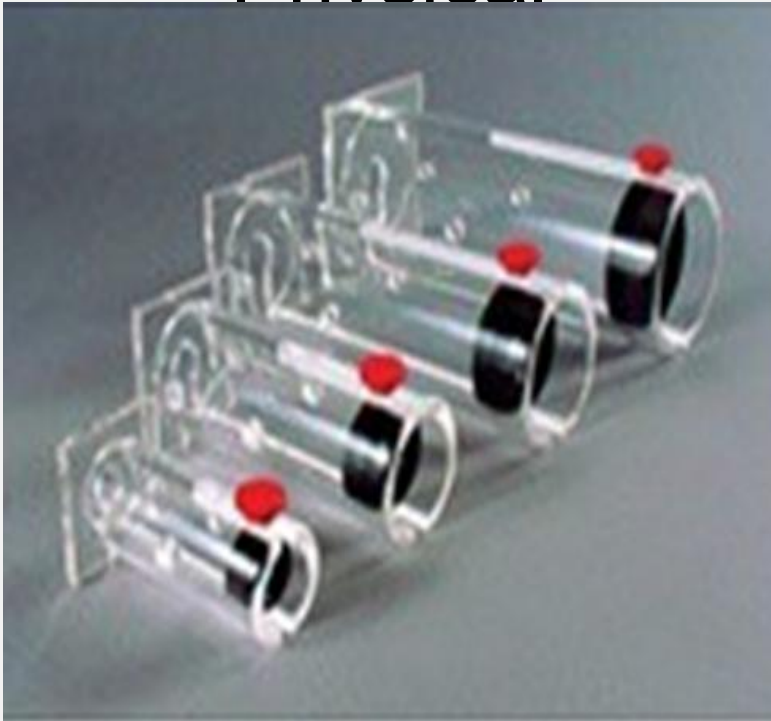
Proper handling and restraint is one of the most important factors in being able to give an injection properly while limiting the amount of stress and/or discomfort to the animal or the handler.



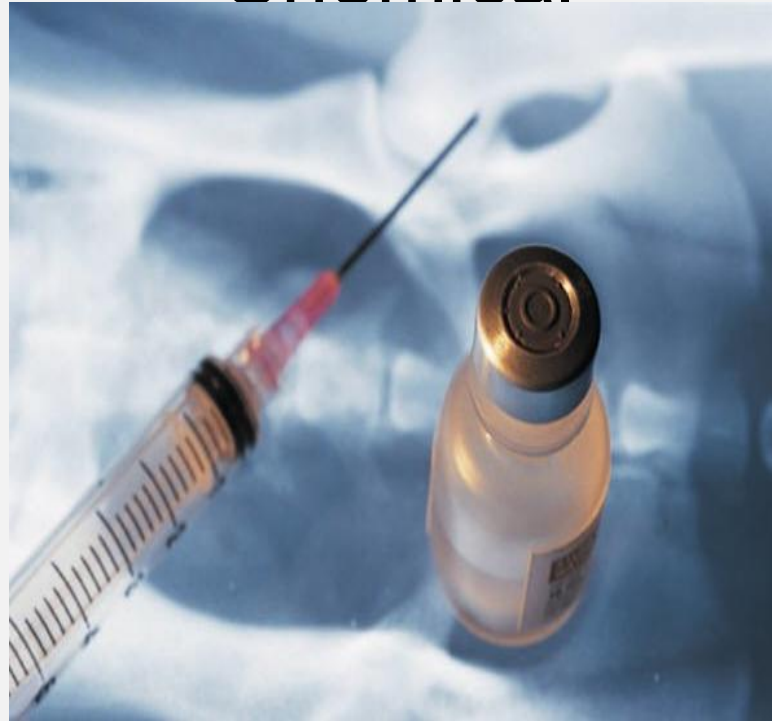
Types of Restraints

Two types of restraint:

Physical



Chemical



Types of Restraints: Physical Restraints

Physical restraint can be achieved by many means:

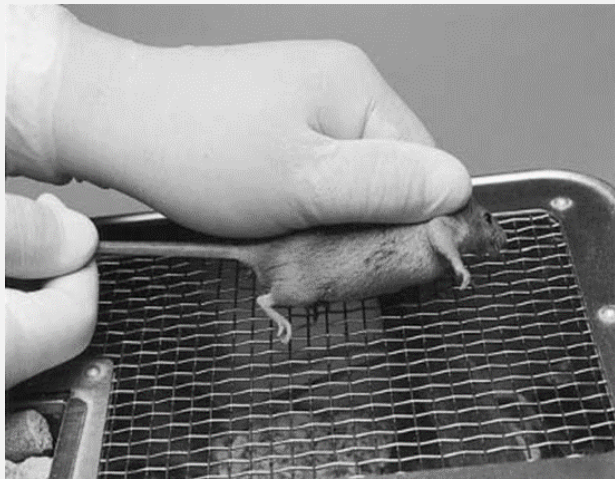
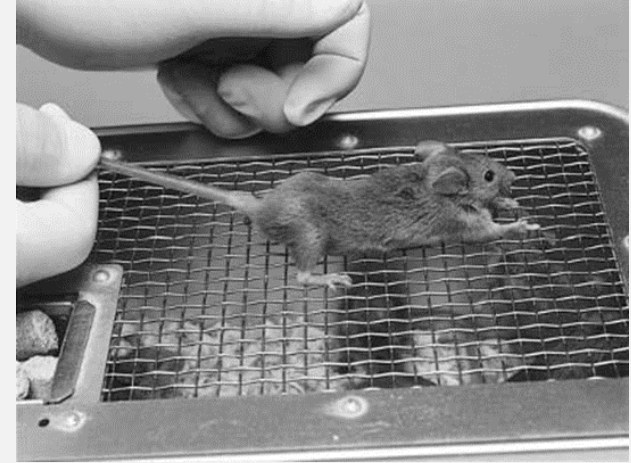
- ✓ Holding the animal with gloved hands
- ✓ Commercial type restrainers may be purchased from laboratory equipment suppliers
- ✓ Towels can be used
- ✓ Wire bar lid



Types of Restraints: Physical Restraints

Double Hand Method

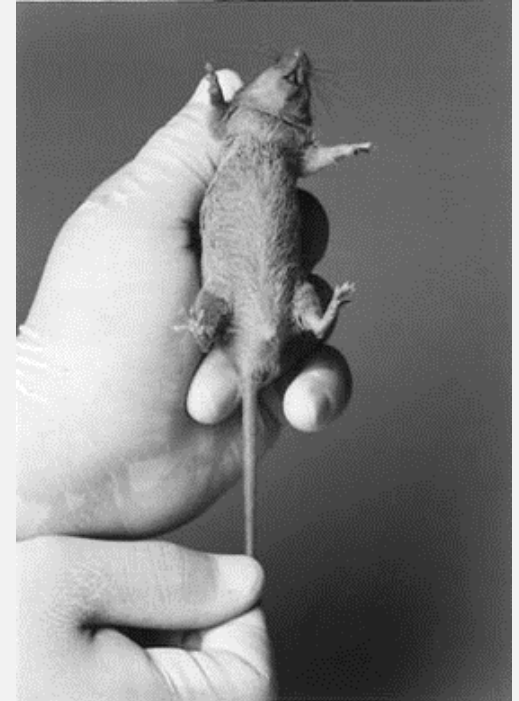
(a) The mouse is placed on the cage lid with the preferred hand, The tail is pulled gently back by the hand



(b) The mouse is quickly and firmly picked up by the scruff of the neck behind the ears with thumb and index finger of other hand

Types of Restraints: Physical Restraints Double Hand Method cont.

(c) The tail is transferred from the preferred hand to between palm and little or ring finger of the other hand, then held firmly.



(d) The mouse is restrained.

Types of Restraints: Physical Restraints

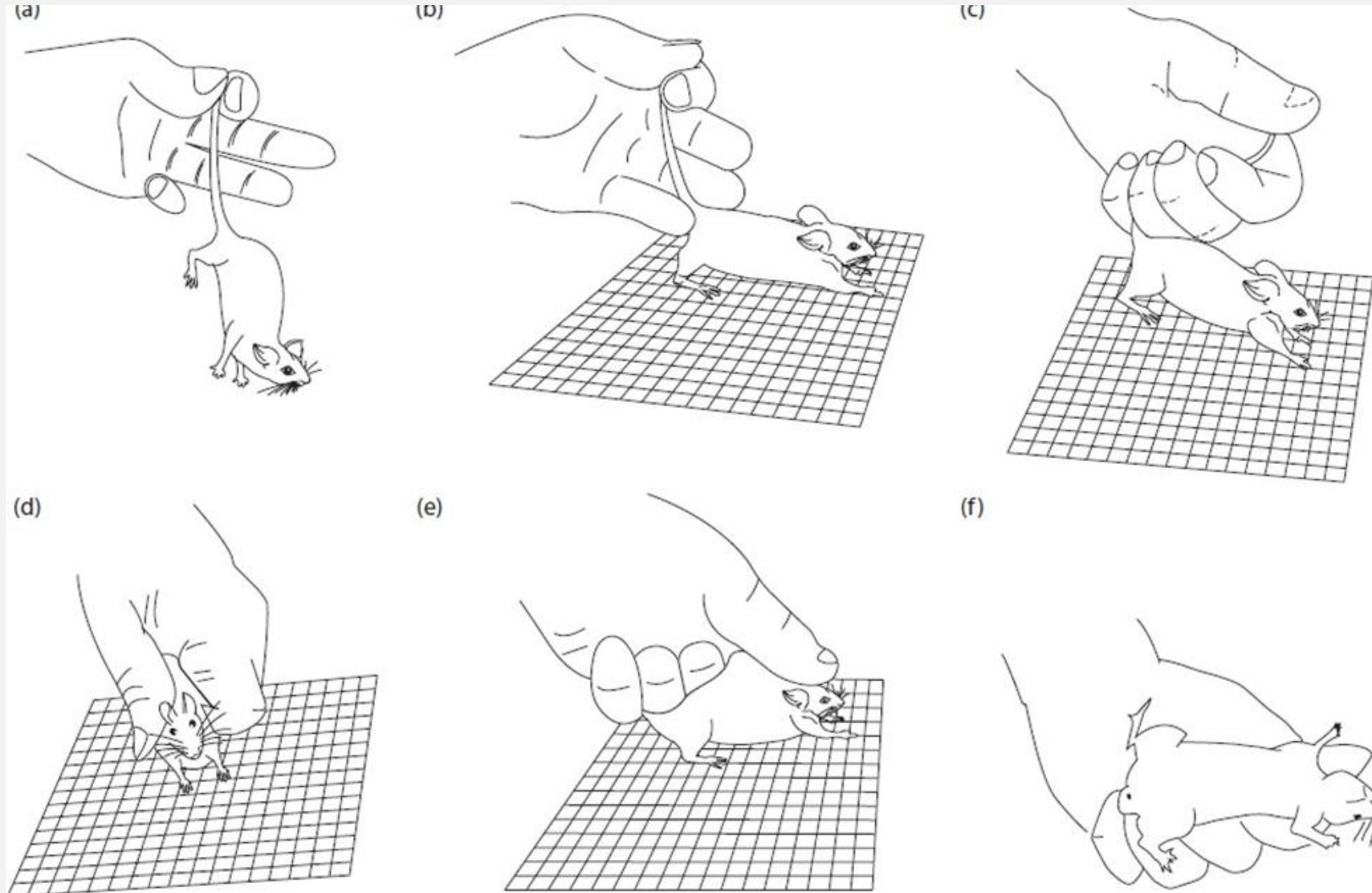
Single Hand Method

- (a) The tail is picked up using thumb and forefinger of the preferred hand.
- (b) The mouse is placed on the cage lid or other solid surface pulling gently back by the hand.
- (c) The tail is immediately grasped by the palm and middle finger, ring finger and/or little finger and then, the tail held between thumb and forefinger is released.
- (d) and (e) The fold of skin from the scruff of the neck down the back is immediately gripped using the thumb and forefinger.
- (f) The mouse is restrained.



Types of Restraints: Physical Restraints

Single Hand Method Illustrated



Types of Restraints: Chemical Restraints

Chemical restraint is recommended if there will be great distress or discomfort to the animal.

This can be achieved by using a gas anesthesia such as isoflurane or by a type of injectable sedation such as Ketamine/Xylazine mix.



QUESTIONS & SUPPORT

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