



Professional Animal Care Certification Council – Position Statement

Humane Pet Care

To deliver skillful, safe, conscientious, and compassionate care to all animals entrusted to me, being constantly attentive to their security, safety and well-being, and placing their welfare above all other considerations. To uphold the principle of “doing no harm” to the animals under my care, and to ensure that every animal under my care returns home more or at least as physically and behaviorally sound in body and spirit as when it arrived.

Progression in the Use of Tools to Manage Animals

- A positive method is always the first choice (e.g., verbal cues, treat and praise rewards)
- Focus shall always be on managing individual behaviors rather than group behaviors (e.g., muzzles as a one-size-fits-all approach for noise ordinance compliance are not an acceptable choice).
- Pet owner consultation is a necessary step in the process prior to implementing any non-positive tool in the progression.
- In the case of dog fight or attack situations, the safety of animals and people is always the priority, and tools not normally utilized may be required to diffuse these situations in emergencies without the prior consent of the owner(s).
- Utilization of high-risk equipment or handling techniques shall only be by those persons who have been trained and have the skill and knowledge of proper usage for the safety of animals (e.g., heated dryers, e-collars, catch poles, alpha rolls, verbal and/or physical corrections).