

TECHNICAL NOTE

A POLE AND LEASH HANDLING SYSTEM FOR PRIMATES¹

Procedures entailing aversive control or temporary restraint require methods of handling that will not injure the experimenter or the experimental organism. Net and glove procedures can produce fractures which may go unnoticed by the experimenter until autopsy. The handling system described here incorporates a one-piece, unbreakable leash and collar with a pole and clamp assembly.

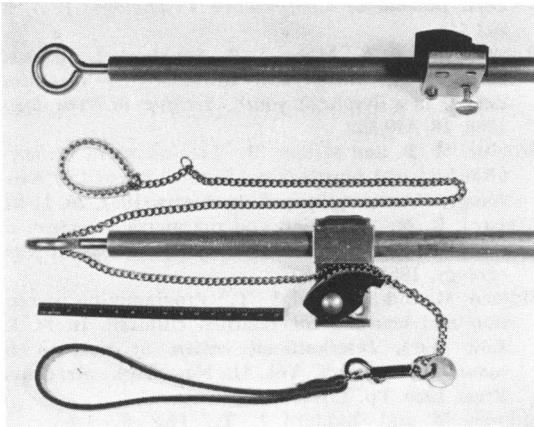


Fig. 1. Detail of pole and leash handling system.

The leash was fabricated from a swivel-snap dog leash. The chain was removed from the leash by cutting both the swivel loop and the ring fixed to the leather handle. A 14-cm length of Tygon tubing fits a squirrel monkey's neck (*Saimiri sciureus*) well. Ten-cm lengths produce shoulder abrasions at the clavicle. The tubing was forced over the chain at one end, and a

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²Hand-1-hold, #M515E, The Bassick Company, Bridgeport, Conn.

loop formed by passing the chain through the ring attached to the terminal link. A 1-cm diameter jeweler's ring (3 cm from loop in Fig. 1) prevents the loop from expanding once it is applied and sized to the neck. The choke-chain action of the collar is limited by the Tygon tubing. No monkeys have been strangled with this collar in several monkey-years of use, contrary to the risk asserted by Hanson (1968). Ataxic monkeys should not be allowed to hang by the neck, of course. The swivel snap and tag at the other end permits the leash to be attached to the front of the home cage, thus minimizing twisting and facilitating animal identification and removal.

The author's first squirrel monkey bite elicited several modifications of the handling pole described by Kelleher, Gill, Riddle, and Cook (1963). The pole, constructed of 1.6-cm diameter aluminum stock, has a 1.07-m shaft. At one end of the shaft is a commercially available eye ring with an inside diameter of 2 cm. A leash clamp assembly which slides the length of the pole was fabricated from a 2.2 by 2.6 by 3.6 cm aluminum block and a commercially available broom holder.² The leash clamp can be fixed at any point on the pole with a thumbscrew, thus permitting the handler to vary the amount of movement allowed the monkey. The clamp prevents inadvertent loss of restraint while the handler is busy holding a limb or inserting the monkey in a chair.

Larger primates than *S. sciurea* can also be handled with the device. Specimens of *M. nemestrina* readily adapt to the same procedure.

REFERENCES

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- Kelleher, R. T., Gill, D. A., Riddle, W. C., and Cook, L. On the use of the squirrel monkey in behavioral and pharmacological experiments. *Journal of the Experimental Analysis of Behavior*, 1963, 6, 249-252.

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