

Animal-Handling Skill Checklist

These checklists include the basic animal handling skills that Emergency Animal Rescue Service (EARS) volunteers most commonly need at an emergency shelter. These checklists are **not** all-inclusive.

Volunteers should seek qualified mentors or volunteer at a local animal shelter to learn these and other animal handling skills. EARS volunteers are welcome to contact the United Animal Nations staff for guidance at info@uan.org.

Most common species:

Dog Skills	Completed
Walk a dog on a slip leash	
Clean enclosure	
Scan for microchip	
Correctly lift a dog	
Catch a loose dog	
Load into crate / carrier	
Put a muzzle on	
Restrain a dog	
Make an emergency muzzle	

Cat Skills	Completed
Clean cage	
Correctly lift a cat	
Lift a scared cat	
Scan for microchip	
Open cage without cat escaping	
Load into carrier	
Catch a loose cat	
Restrain	

Other animals that may be encountered:

Horse Skills	Completed
Clean a horse stall	
Know strike zones	
Approach a horse	
Scan for microchip	
Put on a halter	
Lead with a halter and lead rope	
Create an emergency halter	
Inspect and clean hooves	
Load into a trailer	

Rabbit Skills	Completed
Clean a rabbit hutch/cage	
Correctly lift a rabbit	
Restrain	
Scan for microchip	
Recognize signs of illness or trauma	
Catch a loose rabbit	

Bird Skills	Completed
Identify common pet bird species	
Clean a bird cage with a non-flighted bird	
Clean a bird cage with a flighted bird	
Restrain	
Scan for microchip	
Recognize signs of illness or trauma	

Reptile Skills	Completed
Identify common pet reptile species	
Clean a cage housing a handleable reptile	
Clean a cage housing a non-handleable reptile	
Restrain a snake	
Restrain an iguana	
Scan for microchip	
Recognize signs of illness or trauma	

Other types of animals that are occasionally encountered:

- Ferrets
- Small mammals such as rats, hamsters, chinchillas, mice and gerbils
- Llamas and alpacas
- Farmed mammals such as swine, cattle and sheep
- Farmed birds such as turkeys and chickens
- Large birds such as emu and ostrich