

“Y” Pole for Handling Fractious Dogs and Wild Canids

Please fully read these 2 pages of directions and warnings before proceeding.

Dr. Mark Johnson of Global Wildlife Resources originally introduced the Y pole to animal shelters and captive wolf facilities.

The Y pole is an essential tool for animal shelter personnel who must handle the occasional intractable dog in a kennel. It is also a valuable device for wildlife professionals working with fractious canids such as wolves and coyotes. The Y pole is only effective for restraining animals which are already cornered or captured, but not yet safe enough to handle.

Intended as a humane tool to quietly control an animal, the Y pole allows practitioners to perform simple hands –on procedures such as:

- 1) Injecting vaccinations, antibiotics, or anesthesia.
- 2) Partial physical examinations and minor treatment of wounds.
- 3) Additional physical restraint if the animal must be moved or handled in a more extensive manner.

The Y pole utilizes fundamental principles of canid behaviour to restrain animals, deriving about 75 percent of its effectiveness through psychological restraint, supported by 25 percent physical restraint. You cannot force an animal to submit. If a dog or wild canid absolutely refuses to accept restraint, the Y pole will not work. On the other hand, it is the nature of canids to submit to this gentle restraint device when properly used in a compassionate way. If you use your knowledge and sense of the animals behaviour and combine dominance with kindness and calm movements (so the animal feels a willingness to submit), you will be successful the vast majority of times.



Approaching the Animal

Do not enter into any situation with the Y pole unless you know it is safe. Slowly approach the animal towards its shoulder, holding the Y pole with two hands. The “Y” end should be pointing to the neck with tines positioned vertically, ready to slide into place. Have good posture and convey kind dominance. Slowly move closer. If the animal is very worried, let it smell the Y pole. If it feels right, gently pet the animal with the Y pole so it feels less threatened. Watch for signs the animal has surrendered, such as the “trance” state often apparent when animals shift into submission. Then gently put the Y in place across the animal’s neck, moving calmly and slowly to maintain the animal’s submission.

Once the Y pole is in place across the neck and the animal is firmly pinned in a reasonable position, the animal may be calmed further by covering the head and eyes with a towel, but apply the towel safely and slowly. If need, a second Y pole can be applied by a second person to the flank just in front of the hip (see lower picture). When the animal has fully submitted and is controlled, the person with the Y pole must remain in place, focusing on the animal and standing perfectly still. Other people can then perform procedures such as those described above, but they must be aware if the safety of the situation changes, Be sure to use this tool quietly. The more excited the animal is, the calmer the handler should be.



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For additional information visit the Y Pole Page on the website for Global Wildlife Resources (GWR) (www.wildliferesources.com) and on Dr. Mark Johnson's Feral Dog Blog. Training videos for humane and effective use of the Y pole with dogs and wolves can be viewed on the GWR YouTube Channel: GWRferaldogs.

WARNING! Please read!

Safe use of this tool includes but is not limited to:

Training

Practice

Knowledge and being familiar with the animals you are attempting to handle.

Do not put yourself at risk

All animals can be unpredictable.

WARNING! Please read! Use at your own risk.

The use of this device is entirely at the discretion of the user. The user accepts complete responsibility for the use of this device. The user must become fully aware of its operation before use. Freeman By Design Corporation and Global Wildlife Resources, Inc. assumes no responsibility or liability for any damage(s) or accident(s) resulting from the use of its products whatsoever.

Take Care,

Peter Freeman

President

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