



Zorgbeest

13. Safety

- The permanent cat caregiver at the facility:
 - should have a basic knowledge of cat behaviour, welfare and training.
 - takes all precautions to guarantee the safety of all those who interact with the cats (Kohler, 2011).
 - informs the patient (or posters can be hung in rooms, waiting areas, AAI area, etc.) about:
 - approaching the cat correctly;
 - respecting the cat's personal space;
 - giving the cat time;
 - not staring at the cat (Herron & Schreyer, 2014);
 - making yourself smaller;
 - not leaning over the cat (-> kneel) (Herron & Schreyer, 2014);
 - not extending your arm;
 - allowing the cat to come to you;
 - turning sideways instead of walking directly towards the cat (Herron & Schreyer, 2014);
 - using subtle and flowing movements (Herron & Schreyer, 2014);
 - being aware of your own body language;
 - recognising signs of stress;
 - how to prevent a cat bite or scratch.
 - never leaves the cats alone with the patient;
 - is extra cautious when children interact with the cats (Kahn et al., 2003);
 - is aware of the procedure describing what actions must be taken if someone is wounded by the cat (e.g. wounds from the cat's nails: clean and disinfect) (Kohler, 2011);
 - ensures that those who interact with the cat do so appropriately (do not pull the cat's tail, ears, etc.) (Kohler, 2011; Sterneberg-van der Maaten et al., 2015);
 - stops the session if the patient shows inappropriate behaviour towards the cat(s);
 - checks the safety doors or double doors before the session starts so that the cat does not end up outside alone or in the wrong ward;
 - ensures there are no small objects within reach of the cat that could be swallowed or cause choking (Kohler, 2011).