## Foundations of Virtual Fence: Training and Animal Welfare

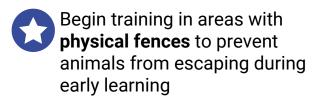
## **Learning Process**

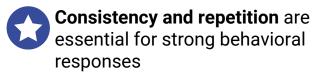
With virtual fence (VF), animals learn to pair the beeping sound with the upcoming electrical cue and the invisible barrier during several days of training.

- After training, animals should respond to the sound alone by turning away
- The desired behavior is reinforced when the cue stops



## **Best Practices**





Keep VF lines simple and avoid sharp angles to reduce confusion and prevent stress

**Predictability and controllability** of cues are essential to avoid stress

Poorly designed VF systems may lead to **chronic stress** or learned helplessness, especially if animals can't figure out how to avoid cues

## **Animal Welfare**

Electrical cues may cause acute, short-term stress. Chronic stress is a more serious welfare concern, potentially affecting health, growth, and reproduction.

For more information, read Training and Animal Welfare

Access VF resources at rangelandsgateway.org/vf



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