



FIG 6.1
Gloves allow the handler to secure the cat's head (and legs, if need be) prior to removal from the cage.

6.5 Restraint Tools

ANIMAL HANDLING TOOLS are some of the most important pieces of equipment a shelter can own. Some of the standard devices are towels, gloves, control poles, bags, nets, ropes, muzzles, barriers, and confinement units.

Gloves

Many shelters rely on standard leather gloves made for construction or farm work. Although such gloves are better than nothing, they do not compare with the rugged design of gloves that are specifically sold for animal handling work. One of the best gloves available consists of an inner glove made of lighter material and an outer glove of extremely dense leather. Both reach to the shoulder and offer extremely good protection. Their cost of \$100.00 may seem prohibitive when compared to \$15.00 garden gloves, but, as one satisfied user said, “The last trip to the emergency room cost \$350 and two weeks off [from] work.”

The advantage of thicker gloves is in providing crushing and penetration protection—from a large dog, for example. The disadvantage is that the handler has reduced flexibility and tactile sensation. Other glove types are available to provide only penetration protection and allow more dexterity and sensitivity for handling smaller animals such as cats (Fig. 6.1). These gloves are made of Kevlar (which is used in bulletproof vests) and cost approximately \$50 (Animal Care Equipment and Services 2001a).

Control Pole

Probably no device has saved more animal shelter personnel from serious injuries than the control pole. While control poles can be constructed from simple materials such as a pipe and rope, the quality and the construction of commercial models are far better than any homemade devices. There are now several manufactured types available.