

FIRST AID FOR BIRDS

The difference between livéuns and deadúns



Visual difference between sick and healthy birds



Sick Amazon



Healthy Amazon

The first thing to know about first aid is that birds are masters of deception, hiding illness from their keepers is just nature. In a bird's natural habitat, the sick and the weak will always be the first pick for potential predators. A bird that is outwardly looking sick is no longer strong enough to put on the show and is more likely to be staring death in the eye rather than feeling just a little down.

Steps to Be Taken When Birds Show Signs Of Illness

Before we begin to work through the possible causes of sickness, there is something that needs to be done very quickly if these birds that are physically showing signs of illness are to be saved.



Administering First Aid - All sick birds will be dehydrated and lacking in energy, particularly if they have progressed to a point that they have ceased eating or drinking. Supplying fluids and energy to sick birds is absolutely critical. Without the fluid and energy needed to fight back against illness, any kind of treatment for the initial disease is useless. Being confident with a crop needle is an incredibly valuable skill to have in these situations. A bit of quick thinking and the direct administration of some Poly Aid for carbs and Spark Liquid to rehydrate has saved the lives of hundreds, possibly thousands of sick birds. Be sure to have at least a few first aid essentials in the cupboard. In times of crisis they are priceless.

The Hospital Box - The hospital box is an absolute necessity for any serious bird keeper. The box needs some form of heating and a way to measure temperature, too hot and your bird will stress and dehydrate. A temperature between 25-27 degrees is about right for most species. It also needs to be in a quiet, low stress environment with soft, dim light during the day and just a small amount of light at night. Many sick birds will take the opportunity to eat a small amount during the night, if it is pitch black eating becomes difficult. Try not to handle the bird too frequently or disturb unnecessarily.



Recovery - Once we have administered first aid and put the bird into a hospital box, the next step is to identify the cause of illness and begin treatment, you may need to contact your veterinarian for identification and treatment of certain diseases. However, the bird's recovery back to full health will most likely fall to you. For birds that are eating and drinking voluntarily, a high-energy food is best - plain canary seed is a good choice for a recovery diet. For birds that are only eating small amounts or not eating at all, a critical care food will need to be force fed to ensure ongoing energy, fat, protein and fluids are available. Critta Care Avian is a good way to accomplish this with good amounts of the above nutrients in a cooked and easily digested formula. Critta Care Avian is also fortified with Probiotic and Pre-digestives to assist the digestive system in the break down of food and the re-establishment of healthy gut flora after stress and antibiotics. Additional doses of pure Probiotic can also be beneficial after antibiotic treatment.



Broken Wing First Aid: The Wrap

1) Gently restrain the bird holding the wing against the body. Start your bandage wrapping around the base of the tail feathers. Hint: a non adhesive bandage is preferable to save feather damage on removal.

2) Continue to wrap bandage firmly around the body and wing of the bird to secure the wing and prevent further damage to the break. Be sure not to apply too much pressure with the bandage.

3) First Aid complete - take the bird to the Vet for follow up treatment!



Remember this is First Aid, not a solution, you must see a Vet for proper treatment.

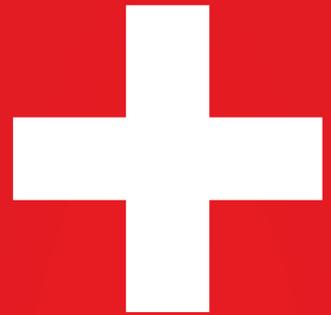
Not all birds that are discovered as being ill successfully recover, there is always going to be the odd bird that we can't save. However, having a good knowledge of the steps to take in an emergency, and the right tools at hand will make a huge difference to the number of birds you will get recoveries from.

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Watch The Video



Treating Sick Birds



TIPS FOR WILD BIRDS

Injured birds are commonly rescued and even more so in breeding season when young birds begin to fledge. Here are a few things to keep in mind when dealing with rescued birds.

They still love me: In many cases, parents will take a baby back and continue caring for them if they have fallen from the nest accidentally. Its best to try this first before taking the bird into your own care.

Turfed for a reason: Some young birds found by rescuers have been purposefully thrown out of the nest by their parents. There is usually a reason for this and while there is no harm in rescuing these birds, you need to be aware if you keep other birds that the risk of spreading infectious diseases is very real.

Catch and release: Take care when catching injured birds and wildlife, for both their and your own safety using a towel or blanket is the best option. Once caught you can keep it in a box in a quiet dark place until you can contact your local wildlife organisation, who will then take the birds on with the aim of rehabilitation and release if possible.



Don't Forget the Air Holes

DIY FIRST AID PACK

If you own a bird you will find these might come in handy, if or when they fall ill:

Critta Care Avian - This should be used whenever any bird is not eating voluntarily, it's a powdered emergency food used to aid in the recovery of sick or injured birds.

Probiotic - This maintains a balance in the digestive system and boosts immune defence.

Spark Liquid - Add this to drinking water in times of heat stress, dehydration, illness or transportation.

Poly Aid Plus - A first aid supplement for sick and/or injured birds and animals.

Crop Feeding Tubes - These are stainless steel needles with a rounded ball tip for use in administering fluids and food to animals.

Feeding Syringes - Allows measured feeds and medication to be administered. This should be used for hand raising or emergency feeding/medication of birds and reptiles.

