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1. QUICK STEP GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS WITH ADULT BIRDS THAT COME IN INJURED OR SICK.

STEP 1  Don't panic. Take a deep breath and follow these easy steps
STEP 2  Unless you see obvious injuries you need to treat straight away or it is a confirmed cat attack, put bird in a warm box and give water only for two hours. See Section 3 a) to c)
STEP 3  If cat attack; give antibiotics as per size of bird or take to vet for treatment Section 8
STEP 4  Identify your bird using commercial bird books. Section 5
STEP 5  Check bird fully for injuries. Section 6
STEP 6  Ring your Mentor or Head Carer and discuss possible treatment for bird
STEP 7  Treat bird as recommended by Head Carer/Mentor
STEP 8  Feeding your bird. Section 12 & 13
STEP 9  Giving water to dehydrated birds. Section 11
STEP 10  Rehabilitation plan. Section 22 e)

2. INTRODUCTION

There are many manuals on bird caring out there and on the internet. This manual compiles training from many sources into a one stop quick comprehensive guide to bird care for new bird carers. This is not to say that you can’t individualise your dealing with birds. We are all different; we all have our own ideas and ways as to what we should do. This manual is a guide to basic standards and treatments as well as foods and housing for your birds. By all means keep reading other authors books and checking things on the internet (different people have different ideas on animal husbandry) as this is how we grow and expand our knowledge.

Enjoy your experience with birds.

ALL birds need the following to survive and we as the rehabilitator, must provide them for the birds in our care. They are:

- To have their injuries/sickness treated
- Have species appropriate food provided
- Have water provided
- To feel secure - remember STRESS is a KILLER
- To be kept warm
- To be given Pain Relief when needed
- To be humanely euthanased by a qualified Vet

Most birds when they come in need to be kept and observed for three days and if no injuries or sickness develop, release on fourth day. Where bird may have been just stunned, e.g. after flying into a window. Place bird in a box somewhere quiet for a couple of hours to recover, then if they seem bright and alert and are able to fly they can be released. If still drowsy or if unable to fly, then they come in to care. A bird is considered able to fly if it can get lift and gain height. A bird that flies forward and downwards is not ready for release. Also babies should be taken straight back to parents unless they are injured, it is better for parent birds to raise chicks than us humans.
3. HOUSING YOUR BIRD WHEN IT FIRST ARRIVES

a) The container for the bird
The way we house birds can differ greatly. Tiny birds like Silvereyes, Willie Wag Tails, Spinebills, Wrens etc. have small heads that can easily be forced through the bars of an average cage, but the body can’t fit through, they then can’t get their heads back out and end up hanging themselves. Other birds like Robins, Kingfishers, Tawnies, Kookaburras and Swallow’s have delicate feathers and the flapping of their wings against the bars of a cage can damage these feathers and then the bird needs to wait till it molts to replace those feathers (often 12 months). Be particularly careful with migratory birds such as dollar birds, koels and channel bills who migrate overseas, green backed Oriels, Silvereyes, Kingfishers, Friar birds who migrate locally in Australia - even the loss of a couple of flight feathers can ruin their chance of migrating successfully. Little birds are very quick at darting out of your basket/box/cage and fly straight into a window or wall and can cause further damage to themselves.

b) To avoid damaging bird feathers.
Line your cage with Ballerina Tulle or Nylon Fly Screen Wire (can be abrasive). Line your basket or containers with towels or sheets and always keep the bird in a cage, box or plastic tub that is slightly larger than the bird so it can turn around without touching any sides of the enclosure. Tulle lets the light in where the fly screen or even shade cloth hinders the light. For small birds place a piece of Tulle over the top of basket, securing it ¾ of the length of the container leaving only a small end to get your hand in. This way if the bird flies to the opposite end of the basket, it can’t escape. For larger birds cut a piece of tulle that overlaps the container and using strong elastic (like a rubber band) to hold it in place.

c) Heat/food/water for new arrivals
Birds concussed or in shock NEED WARMTH. Injured and sick birds NEED WARMTH. Do not presume, because it is a warm day that the bird is warm. Injured/sick concussed birds lose their ability to regulate their own heat and MUST be placed on a heat source as soon as they arrive. Heat up a wheat bag/ microwave a mat or plug in an electric blanket. Put heat source to one side of the container and the bird half on and half off the heat source so it can choose to get cooler or choose to get more warmth. Do not try to feed cold birds. They won't eat and could choke on it. A bird can go 3 to 5 days without food, so don't panic if it won't eat when it first arrives. When warm, give them water and/or PolyAid mix till they are brighter then try them with food. Keep on warmth till they have moved away from it completely.

d) Frightened birds
Most species of birds are usually very frightened. Parrots will bite hard when frightened. You the rehabilitator may need to provide something for them to hide in like:
- Bush in the basket/box for small to medium size birds
- A container or box. Cover the box with a towel or sheet for a parrot leaving only a small space open to allow air flow
- A closed solid container for large Parrots & Raptors

e) Providing food and water for new arrivals
When setting up your container always put a small bowl of water (large enough that the birds beak can scoop up water and drink it e.g. no use putting in an egg cup of water for a Kookaburra as it cannot scoop the water from the egg cup) into the basket/box before placing the bird in it. This helps to minimize the stress to the bird. Newly arrived birds don’t always need to be fed, so food should not be placed in with new arrivals. Birds also need to be warm before you try to feed them. Feed after 12 hours in care, or last feeding of the day so bird has food in its stomach to cope with the long stressful night ahead. Dehydration caused by hot weather, unable to get to water, held by member of public is a major killer of birds. Always give the birds a drink of water when they first arrive. Use Syringing technique below.

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f) Syringing liquids to birds

Below are techniques for giving water to difficult birds. It usually works:

1/. How I was taught to syringe liquids to birds is, dribble out a drop of moisture and run it along the crack (where beaks join) or in some birds that upward curved section of bird’s beak near the tip.

2/. Watch to see if they swallow. Repeat till you see them swallow. Once they start swallowing, you should see them open the beak a little. Dribble a couple of drops in at the tip of the beak. Watch to see if they swallow.

3/. Work out how much you need to give the bird in water by weighing the bird and giving it 10% of its body weight in water over a twelve hour period. If dehydrated give 15% of body weight (minimum) e.g. a 100 gram bird will need 10 ml to 15 ml of water divided over 12 hours.

g) Make a nest for baby birds

Check your bird book as to the type of nest they would have in the wild. Try to emulate this with man made materials. Don’t try to construct with same materials, it is just the basic shape you are after. Have a perch placed at a height and angle that that they can step out of nest straight onto perch. Have an appropriate thickness perch for the size of their feet. A perch too thin can cause foot problems. For the nest use items like: 1 lt square ice cream container, large yoghurt container, clear take away containers, clean pot plant container, cardboard box cut to size. Line with material and place dry leaf, twigs etc nto nest to make bird feel comfortable. You can also make an artificial mummy for your bird by using pyjamas type material (cuts clean leaving no threads hanging).

HOW TO: Cut a square slightly larger than your baby. Draw up the centre and using sticky tape to wrap around drawn up section. 4 peaks should hang down. Use a pair of sharp scissors and make octopus legs. Make sure no threads are hanging that they can get their feet caught in. Place over baby to represent mum sitting on it. Some birds will be best raised with nest off the ground (use folded towels).

Some birds need to be raised in a dark box or nest that represents their hollow log. A small box that they can get their heads over to look out is unsuitable. Perhaps purchase a wooden breeding box. If forced to fledge too early because of wrong housing, some birds can get eye damage as they should be raised in a tall box with light coming in at the top but where they are at the bottom is darker. Rehabilitators need to copy this or we could cause damage to the bird’s eyes. Some of these birds are:

- Fairy Martins
- Kookaburras
- Parrots

h) Making a support for a Neurological problem bird

Depending on the size of the bird, use a face washer, hand towel or bath towel and holding the long side in each hand, roll it into a material snake. Place this in the box in a horse shoe shape. Place a couple of pieces of kitchen towel or tissues in the middle of the horse shoe (enough for the bird to fully lie on). Gently place the bird in the horse shoe so that its head is raised up on the middle of the towel snake. We try to keep their heads raised so they don't asphyxiate. Birds don't usually sit with their heads down. Now tuck the bird in by using another light cloth over the top of the bird, around to the outside of the towel snake and tucked in. This helps to stop the bird getting up and moving around. This does not always work, so keep checking box and lifting birds head back up onto snake.

i) Predators

- Baby birds should also be in a container they can’t see out of but can hear other birds you might have in the same room. This is because some birds like Currawongs, Kookaburras, Crows, Butcherbirds, Raptors are predators to other birds and we don’t want to teach a bird that a predator is safe to be near. In the wild they would not fly away, instead sit there and get mauled. Likewise, larger birds will be stressed and frightened to see a predator in the cage next to them.
Predators as seen by birds are we humans, our domestic cats and dogs. They tolerate one or two persons caring for them and feeding them, BUT are stressed when other humans including children come into bird room. (Birds don't always show stress, often they sit there like a statue.) This often can't be helped. We encourage our children and other family members to assist us by picking flora & fruit & seeds for them, BUT we need to minimise the number of people entering the bird area. Your children and family members might follow all the guidelines, BUT when the bird is released, it then expects ALL humans to act in this way. Unfortunately, we hear stories on the news all the time about animal slayings and acts of cruelty on our wildlife. Don't teach birds to consider humans as non-threatening.

Hands. When you approach a bird (no matter how long in care) ALWAYS reach out to the bird with a closed hand or a fist. NEVER have your fingers open as our 5 fingers to the bird looks like the 5 feet of a predator bird about to get them.

Likewise our family cat or dog can cause similar problems. How many times do we get birds in that are either cat or dog attacks? Our cat or dog might be safe to have around wildlife BUT the bird or wildlife is falsely learning that cats and dogs are safe to be around so when released, instead of running or flying away from a stray cat or dog, they sit there waiting to be mauled. Cats and dogs can be seen and heard from a distance. Keep them out of the bird room. Put up a physical barrier in yard between aviary and dog area so dogs cannot go up to aviaries. This will help minimise future problems whilst allowing dogs to roam free in the yard and bird to see dogs from a distance only.

j) How much warmth do birds need

Most birds other than chicks will be in shock so they need warmth. Birds concussed or in shock NEED WARMTH.

Chicks need warmth to replace mother’s body heat

- Unfeathered chick & eyes not open – warm heat, snuggle in nest & cover leaving 1 corner exposed unless 3 or more chicks are together. 3 or more together, snuggled of a night time that is plenty of cloth around them to help retain their body heat
- Chicks eyes open & starting to get feathers – warmth of a night time (if less than 3 chicks together) not daytime (unless excessively cold). Snuggled of a night time
- Feathered chick– no warmth but snuggled of a night time
- If the skin of your chick changes from a rosy red to a maroon red or if they start to stand up & beaks open and panting they could be too hot. If this happens, give them some water and reduce heat
- Adult birds, put warmth to one side of them, not under them. They will snuggle closer to warmth when they need it or move away when they don’t
- Even chicks nests need to be placed half on the heat source and half off so birds have a cool area to move to if they get too hot
- Each bird may need different warmth from the one you had before. These are general rules not the absolute. Vary according to your bird

Bird temperatures to aim towards are:

- Unfeathered chicks 36 deg C
- Feathered Chick 26 deg C
- Fledgling 23deg C
- Sick or injured adult bird 28deg C

k) Keep their container clean

Keep their basket/box/cage clean. Try kitchen paper as it is cheap, easy to get, easy to use and dispose of. Provide appropriate flowers or fruit for individual birds along with man made foods. Try using baby food bottles filled with water, tied on with wool to place flowers in and often the bush also so as to keep it fresh, or other wise you need to change it daily.

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4. THE INITIAL CHECK OF YOUR BIRD

Checking the bird upon arrival

After the initial visual check of bird (in the box - just by looking at it) for bleeding wounds, or obvious fractures place the bird in container and allow it to quieten down and settle (Observe bird for 1 to 2 hours) before doing a full check on bird later (see section 6).

Treating any injuries it is important bird, mix an appropriate amount of like pain relief can be added if approved the bird to drink it. This provides liquid holding the bird firmly in one hand with along the edge of the beak, wait a moment and see if it licks this off it’s beak/swallows it, repeat process, if licking/swallowing, try a drop to the tip of the beak, hold it there and see if it’s tongue comes out and it laps it up or it opens the beak slightly allowing you to squirt a small amount of fluid into for them to drink.. If it does, give it as much as it wants in small amounts. If it doesn’t go back to running it along the beak. This is time consuming but effective. Don’t try to feed the bird at this stage.

Then place the bird in the prepared box and leave it alone for a couple of hours to recover quietly. After 2 hours, check to see if it has tried the food you left there, if it has, top the food up, if not try another lot of PolyAid Plus and repeat process. I usually find they start eating within 2-4 hours. PolyAid Plus can be mixed and left in the syringe for ½ day maximum, before you need to remake it. Shake the syringe well before re-use as it tends to separate

Try not to handle small birds unless you have to. They do better if left alone.
5. BIRD IDENTIFICATION
BASIC BIRD IDENTIFICATION
Use your commercially available bird books to identify your bird properly. To know the type of bird you have, you can check on the bird types listed below. This will give you a guide for providing food until fully identified.

SEED Eaters

FINCH  Parrot  Dove

RAPTORS

INSECTIVORES FRUIT EATERS
WADERS

Honeyeater

Freshwater Ducks & Swans

Sea Birds

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Bird Groupings

Wildlife rehabilitation is concerned with treating, feeding and housing birds so they can be released to contribute to their own species survival. Categorising or grouping birds according to what their main food source is also gives a good idea of where they live and how they forage for the food (and therefore of some of their behaviour). This helps you not only to feed them, but to house them appropriately.

Table 1 Bird Food Groupings, Handling Risks and Captive Diets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>DOMINANT FOOD</th>
<th>EXAMPLE</th>
<th>RISK IN HANDLING</th>
<th>CAPTIVE DIET</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omnivore (anything)</td>
<td>Will eat most foods</td>
<td>Magpies, Currawongs, ravens, cuckooshrikes, silvereyes, seagulls, ibis</td>
<td>Low - Though toe nails can be sharp, watch for rear toe in larger birds</td>
<td>Insectivore, meat mince, live insects, fruit, pinkie mice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnivore (whole animal eater)</td>
<td>Meat/insects</td>
<td>Kookaburras, owls, butcherbirds, egrets, herons, raptors, frogmouths</td>
<td>NB High - in Raptor &amp; owl talons, High in heron beaks &amp; others Low</td>
<td>Rats, pinkie mice, meat and live insects &amp; larvae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insectivore (Insect eater)</td>
<td>Large &amp; small insects</td>
<td>Wrens, thornbills, magpie-larks, robins, swallows</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Insectivore, live insects &amp; larvae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectivore (Nectar eater)</td>
<td>Pollen, nectar, fruit, insects</td>
<td>Honeyeaters, Lorikeets, Silvereyes</td>
<td>Low except lorikeet beaks and the large hind toe of honeyeaters - medium</td>
<td>Nectivore &amp; Lorikeet mixes with fruit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Granivore (Grain eater)</td>
<td>Seeds</td>
<td>Parrots, finches &amp; pigeons</td>
<td>High - in parrots due to overlapping strong beak. Others Low.</td>
<td>Granivore, mixed seeds, green leaf vegetables, mealworms and grit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frugivore (Fruit eater)</td>
<td>Native &amp; introduced fruits &amp; berries</td>
<td>Pigeons,bowerbirds, large cuckoos, orioles</td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>Chopped fruit, insectivore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbivore (Vegetation eater)</td>
<td>Pond weeds, grasses</td>
<td>Ducks, moorhens, coots &amp; swans</td>
<td>High - swans wings &amp; in the strong beak of native hens, Low in others</td>
<td>Grass, green leaf vegetable &amp; commercial fowl food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piscivore (Fish eater)</td>
<td>Seafood from shellfish to squid</td>
<td>Cormorants, shearwaters, shorebirds, Herons</td>
<td>Beak is medium in cormorants &amp; shearwaters others Low</td>
<td>Fresh fish &amp; seafood and will have to be assist-fed in most cases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RISK - Low - unlikely to break skin. Medium - may cause scratches and superficial punctures. High - is capable of a serious but non-lethal injury if not properly handled. NB Raptors & Owls should only be handled by experienced members.

Captive Foods - With adult & juvenile birds in short-term captivity it is important that they get the right balance and quantities of food. This can come from the made up food or their wild diet if practical. Fledglings are dealt with separately. Manufactured wild food substitutes such a Wombo Barco & Vetfarm simplify feeding as they are balanced diets.

Care should be taken not to assume that a particular bird only eats one type of foodstuff. In reality they all eat balanced diets by eating a range of foods. Their dominant food is usually determined by their evolutionary heritage. For example the cockatoos have evolved a strong overlapping beak which allows it to crack large seeds.
6. FULL BIRD EXAMINATION

Check your bird fully after it has quietened down. Never trust the person who caught the bird to tell you how long they have had it or what they have fed it. DO IT YOURSELF. Many a time people have had the bird for a few days but say they just found it. NEVER challenge them over it. At least it got to you for help and that is the main thing, just mention to them that next time they find anything – the quicker it gets to a rehabilitator the better chance of recovery it has. As part of your inspection of the bird check their cloaca (vent). If you find their droppings stuck to their cloaca (vent) or under side feathers, this indicates they have not been well for a while. This needs to be washed off straight away using warm water and a make up removal pad or other soft material that does not leave threads behind. Using the wet pad, apply water to the droppings, stroke it gently towards the tail in long strokes, dipping frequently into the water until all removed. DO NOT use soap, detergent, washing powder or shampoo as this damages feathers.

What you need to check your bird for:

a) Open wings and see if they contract normally. When you let the wing go it should contract quickly to the right position next to the body. If it is sluggish or doesn’t sit next to body but slightly away from body this could mean concussion or a wing injury, also sometimes with a leg injury the wing will be used as a crutch, held out from the body for the bird to lean against

b) Feel the wings to locate any breaks or lumps that could represent calcium build up around a break that is healing. Use one wing to compare against the other to see if it feels normal or abnormal. This should be repeated after 3 days in care as flying birds have strong wing muscles that can hold a break in place. After 3 days of not flying the wing can drop slightly indicating a problem or you can then feel a break. A shoulder socket fracture can also stop a bird flying, without any obvious fracture in the wing. These can really only be diagnosed on X-Ray. Please contact Head Carer/Mentor for advice on these birds. If broken Head Carer/Mentor can show you how to set the wing

c) Stretch the legs out and bend inwards to see if working properly. If not but you can’t feel any breaks, this could mean spinal injury to the bird. Please contact Head Carer/Mentor for advice on these birds

d) Check the toes are moving and gripping. If not this could mean spinal injury to the bird. Please contact Head Carer/Mentor for advice on these birds

e) Feel along the legs for breaks or calcium build up around an already healing break. If the break is on or just above or below the knee, foot or hip joints, have bird checked by Head Carer/Mentor as these injuries usually means bird is non recoverable. If break is between two joints ask the Head Carer/Mentor to show you how to set the leg.

f) Check the body for wounds, puncture marks from cats/dogs, scratches etc. If wounds from cat or dog attack, check with Head Carer/Mentor or other senior bird person for advice as bird needs to go onto antibiotics IMMEDIATELY in order to survive. It is very easy to miss small puncture wounds on fully feathered birds, so assume any bird found near a dog or cat has been attacked and treat immediately, even if there are no obvious wounds. A delay of even 2 hours before starting treatment could be fatal. With cat attacks only around 50% of those birds survive even with treatment. Dog attacks are crushing injuries as well. It is not uncommon for birds to die 3 days later for no apparent reason. When a dog grabs a bird, its jaw clamps shut usually around the body causing unseen internal injuries.

g) Check for concussion. Signs are: very quiet, head at an angle, pupil large, pupil does not dilate when (soft pen light) torch flashed (quickly) into eye, does not blink when you put your finger towards eye

h) Check inside the beak. Look for gape throat/cancar in birds like Pee Wee, Butcher Bird, Magpie, Currawongs etc.

i) Check feet for unusual lumps along toes or up feet. Contact Head Carer/Mentor for treatment advice. If toes curled into a club foot that when straightened re-curl, contact Head Carer/Mentor on instructions on how to make corrective booties for the bird.
j) Parrots only. Look for beak & feather disease. Ratty, dirty looking feathers. Feathers that have structure but no substance like a thread bare carpet. Bald spot (no feathers) on rump at top of legs, no powdery residue from feather unfurling on body. This is chronic. Birds with acute symptoms can just fall out of the sky. Check with Head Carer/Mentor to confirm diagnosis. These birds are euthanased so as not to spread the disease to other birds. It is an air born virus that can be transmitted from one caged bird in a room to another caged bird on the other side of the room. Keep isolated in a closed box. Box and bedding MUST be disposed of after use. It CANNOT be washed & re-used.

k) Parrots only. Look for signs of Psittacosis. Dirty look to the parrot as if it had a dirt bath. Breastbone very pronounced. Wet look around beak/eyes/face. In advanced stages you could get sneezing. Need to be put onto Pssitavet anti-biotic at recommended dose rate for ten (10) weeks and kept in quarantine.

l) Green droppings with parrots is no longer an indicator of disease as other intestinal problems can cause droppings to look greenish. When on anti-biotic, this will turn droppings a greenish colour also.

m) Chicks and birds sitting on the ground. Check their cloaca (vent) for droppings stuck there. If droppings are allowed to accumulate here, it acts as a concrete plug stopping the bird from going to the toilet. If this happens and they keep eating, the waste bi-products builds up in the birds body turning to poison that will kill the bird if not caught in time.

n) If you come cross a bird in this condition:
   1. Clean off it’s cloaca (vent)
   2. Give them no solid food for 12 hours
   3. Give them the PolyAid Plus (SPARK) mix hourly for 6 hours only instead so as to flush out their digestive system ready for new food
   4. When they go back onto solid food, give them Acidophilus in one piece of meat each feed to help settle their stomachs for two days

o) Chicks and concussed birds need to be kept at around 38 Deg. Air conditioning can be too cold for chicks if it cools the room below say around 32 degrees (at the lowest). It might be better to put a fan on them rather than placing in air conditioning

p) Internal injuries you can’t see can present on bird or bird suddenly dies

q) Wing muscles can be so strong that they can hold a break together. After three days the muscles relax and you could see a dropped wing, re-check bird for breaks.

7. PAIN RELIEF in birds
All animals have a natural right to live pain free. You certainly wouldn't like to lie down in terrible pain and not receive any pain relief and have to lie there suffering so you don't want the birds in your care to suffer unnecessarily

Birds with broken bones, extensive wounds, leg or wing paralysis should be given pain relief. Metacam/Miloxicam are two of the scheduled drugs you can ask the vet for when you collect an injured bird. Both these drugs have anti-inflammatory properties and helps with the swollen area around the wound or spinal site of injury in the bird. Dose rate is as prescribed by vet: CAUTION: You MUST not exceed the dose rate as too much can kill the bird. Talk to your head Carer/Mentor about the correct dose if unsure.
8. THE MOST COMMON PROBLEMS YOU WILL FIND WITH BIRDS ARE:

- Cat attacks. See your Head Carer/Mentor straight away if there are puncture wounds on the bird. Your Head Carer/Mentor will provide you with medication or direct you to a vet - to help the bird fight the infection (usually). It is best to get the bird onto medication within 2 hours (if possible) for a better chance of recovery. Birds can die from fright from the attack as well as the infection. Unfortunately, we can’t always get these birds through and many die. Keep them warm & quiet.

- Hitting a window/wall often causes concussion/stunned birds & neurological (paralysis). Place in a warm dark place to recover (after being given PolyAid Plus) and usually they will recover within 12 hours (some times longer). Check for other injuries also like damaged wings, feet or a lump along their spine. Treat wings/legs as normal. If not recovered after 12 hours, treat as a Neurological bird. Neurological problems in birds are like spinal injuries in humans. Place them on a cloth on the bottom of the basket/box. Use a towel, rolled up pieces of cloth to support the bird with the head raised above the cloth so they don’t asphyxiate. Put the food and water within reach of the head. Make sure the containers are small enough that the bird can’t topple forward and drown in it but big enough for their beak size. If there is no evidence of them drinking, syringe liquids into them every half hour. One time give plain water the other time give Poly Aid Mix. DO NOT massage the lump or spine. They need rest, quiet, food & water & pain relief which is also an anti-inflammatory. Ask Head Carer/Mentor for advice.

- Motor Vehicle injuries are common injuries. Broken legs, wings, head injuries, concussion and open wounds are usually a result of an impact with a car. Stop any blood flow the same way as in humans. Pressure on the wound until it stops bleeding. When fully stopped, clean the wound with saline water, apply antibiotic powder (if appropriate) or leave open for air healing. Broken wings and legs, contact Head Carer/Mentor for a lesson on how to set breaks. Welcome Swallows.

- Fallen from nest especially during high winds. We try to get these birds back wherever possible. Birds that can’t go back are Kingfishers, Pee Wee’s, small Honey Eaters, Kookaburras, Tawnies usually. We sometimes raise them for just a week till they can fly a little better then take them back to be reunited with parents. If the parents have started building a new nest they won’t accept an old baby back so check what the parents are up to before releasing. Also when you return a baby to a nest, ensure the parents come down and feed it before you go as the parents know the baby is missing and just placing it back in the nest that is now abandoned by the parents could mean the death of the baby as the parents never go back to the old nest.

- Fledging and humans who thought bird had fallen from the nest so took you into care when it should have been left alone. Noisy minors, Lapwings, Magpies, particularly raise their babies on the ground and often go off leaving them in what they consider to be a safe baby bird yard coming back only occasionally to check on them. Parrots particularly King Parrots leave fledging young in trees in home owners yards all day without adult bird supervision. This is part of birds fledging process. These birds can be left alone even though they might have a dog in the yard or they are worried about the next door neighbours cat coming over. The parents usually chase predators away from the chicks or the chick goes higher into the tree out of reach.

- Being hawked. Often chick birds are taken by predator birds like falcons, crows etc. Sometimes they get dropped, the predator bird did not get a good enough grip on it when it caught it. These birds often have no marks on them. The clue is the person who found and handed in the bird said things like “it fell out of the sky at my feet”, “I found it where there are no trees or shrubs and wondered how it got there”. These birds will be very frightened and will need a dark place in which to hide. I had a female Superb Fairy Wren like this recently. No injuries so I took her back for release. She would not leave my basket. I took her out of the basket and placed her on a branch of a shrub and she jumped straight back into the basket. OK she did not want to go. I spoke with my Head Carer about it and we decided she needed time. Every day for 8 days I went to the release site, I sat there with the lid off the basket letting her hear the sounds there for about 1 hour. She would only put her beak and 2 eyes out of the sleeve she was hiding in until one day she darted out of the basket (without even a thank you) and disappeared into the bushes.
9. CARING FOR CHICKS

In the nest the mother bird (sometimes the father) feed and clean the chicks & nest. You as the rehabilitator need to replace them. It is your job to remove their faeces, provide food and water for them and to teach them what they need to know to survive. Removing faeces is very important as in the wild predators like goannas and snakes smell their prey by their droppings, so if you don’t remove after each feed, you are imprinting wrong behaviour to your chick that might leave it open for predators when released. As your chick grows, you MUST provide natural foods that they would find in the wild to eat. Some examples are:

- Bower birds eat berries, grubs, and fruit. We give them grapes and stone fruits and meal worms whilst in care BUT they won’t find these in the wild. Go to the bush and pick wild figs, fruits, berries and put whole in the aviary so they know what food in the wild is.
- Parrots eat seeds, fruit and some also grubs. Go to local parks and pick native seed grasses growing there and stand in a water bowl in the aviary. They won’t find wild bird mix in a bowl in the wild.
- Fig birds. Go to Bowling clubs, parks and get the ripened figs for your birds preferably a branch so they can help themselves
- Tawny Parrots and Kookaburras and Raptors (specialist carer) eat mice, small birds and insects. Go to pet shop or reptile pet shop and buy frozen Pinkies or Fuzzies for your bird. Feed whole to your bird at least one per day. Catch cicadas, mealworms and woodies (Wood Cockroaches) live and put in container/aviary with bird.

Droppings.

In the wild the parent bird removes the droppings sack the chick does and drops it over the edge of the nest. You need to remove these droppings after each feed. You can do this one of two ways.

- Have a tissue handy and remove each blob separately
- Place the chicks in the nest on tissues, take the chicks off the tissue, discard old tissues and put in new ones usually two or three on top of each other. A clean nest is a healthy nest which means a clean & healthy chick

10. SOME BIRDS HAVE SPECIAL NEEDS & FEEDINGS

- Mistletoe birds – Like some flowers to eat and meat mix as well as Lorikeet wet mix. When ready for release you need to go find a mature Mistletoe crop hanging where you can safely get to it and bring home a strand of mistletoe. You know the strand is ready if you squeeze one and it pops out of it’s cocoon easily. If they don’t they are still green. Keep chick till you can find some to give to them. Don’t panic if after you feed mistletoes to the bird, you see attached by a slimy thread coming from their cloaca (vent, or bottom), the seeds from the Mistletoe berries. This is quite normal. In the wild, the bird wipes their bottom on a tree branch, wiping them off and at the same time spreading Mistletoe to another tree.
- Sacred Kingfisher – Likes some bush in one end of container. Prefers crickets to mealworms. Support feed with meat mix as well. Provide bowl of water.
- Azure Kingfishers eat meat and fish. Go to bait shop and buy some Whitebait for your bird. Cut it up frozen into small pieces and feed to bird alternatively with meat
- Nightjar. Put lots dead leaves & twigs in container on floor. Dead leaves on branch to hide in at one end. Lump of wood to sit on. Likes crickets. Keep container ¾ covered. Provide bowl of water. Feed meat
• Mix from one end of long wooden skewer, wave around just in front of bird, should run out snatch & eat it.
• Dollar bird. In aviary throw food at bird to catch & must be able to eat then in the air before released.
• Ducklings. NEVER give them a water bowl large enough they can get into as their feathers are not water proof. Use an ice cube tray or buy a special duck/chicken feeder from pet shop.

11. PROVIDING WATER

Water

Dehydration is one of the biggest killers with birds. Water is more important than food. Signs of dehydration are:

• Bird not wanting to take food or spitting food out
• Dry smaller droppings than usual
• Skin on belly looking brownish rather than a healthy pink
• Straining to go to the toilet but nothing coming out
• Droopy looking wings/body
• Sunken eyes

Firstly you need to weigh your bird otherwise you won't know how much water to syringe to your bird. It takes three days usually to recover a dehydrated bird. Give the bird 10% to 15% of body weight in fluid each day (minimum). e.g. a 120gram bird will require an extra 12ml of fluid given orally over the day besides what it drinks for itself. Normal daily water they consume themselves should be 5% of their body weight.

There are a couple of ways to give your chick or bird water:

• Dribble a drop off the end of a piece of meat to the beak. OK but meat deteriorates & falls apart
• Eye dropper. Drop one drop on the end of the beak and let them drink it
• Use a syringe, place a drop at end of beak again
• Syringe with plastic cathedra tip (get from your vets around $2.00). Drop a drop onto the end of the beak, they open their mouth for more, place the end onto the Inside tip of the beak (they usually try to swallow it) and squeeze a little into their beak. This takes practice to get control of how much you give them. Always make sure it has gone down the throat past the wind pipe, other wise it could go into the lungs and cause problems and often death. Practice first how much you squeeze out of the syringe.
• Change constantly through the day your dipping water as little bits of meat drop off into the water and like the meat it goes off
• Place water in with your chick. Clean daily. To teach your chick to drink on its own, place the water container near their perch making sure the container is the correct size for the bird to drink out of. Where possible use clear glass or clear plastic containers as we don’t want to imprint colours to birds as drinking available colours. Gently push the back of the chicks head to the water bowl until its beak tip goes into the water. Never the whole beak as their nostrils are on their beak and you do not want them breathing water into their lungs. Chick will resist you teaching it to drink. Keep it up by doing it once every feed time. Start teaching them when they are out of nest and fully perched NOT while they are in the nest.

NEVER sub-cut a bird and give it fluids. This should be done by an experienced person who knows what they are doing. Talk to your mentor.

Baby Wood Ducks Ducklings

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12. TYPES OF FOODS

a) Food. All chicks (except parrots and ducks and fish eaters) need meat with fat for feather development. This includes honey eaters, mistletoe birds, birds that eat fruit & figs & berries. As they develop they need to be provided with their natural foods or food replacements also. Your Head Carer/mentor will help you to decide when the chick needs to go to the next food stage. These recipes are guides only. Each bird can be an individual with food tastes. You working with your Head Carer/Mentor will develop your own formulas to suit you. Many rehabilitators use many varying recipes. Sometimes it is quicker, easier and cheaper to buy commercially available rearing food for birds rather than making it yourself as these are scientifically balanced to provide the correct vitamins and minerals birds need. Bird food formulas are constantly changing as more research is undertaken into caring for our wildlife. We need to change along with these foods and feeding methods. That is not to say you can't use your own or other recipes if they work for you.

b) How much to feed your bird: See food and weight charts section 12a & b. Work out the daily food amount, then divide by the number of feeds per day to know how much to feed bird. Bird may want more, if so, give it more.

c) Meat mix. Regular (not too much fat just a little bit) mince about 3 heaped tablespoons. Insectivore powder which is the vitamins & minerals your bird needs - about 6 heaped teaspoons full, science formula kitten biscuits (not from supermarkets. “IAMS” or other brands from vets or pet shops only) about 2 level tablespoons of dry biscuits (this provides extra vitamins, acidophilus etc.) mince is the carrying agent to get Insectivore easily into bird. It has no nutritional value to birds.

METHOD Put the kitten biscuits into a china bowl, run the hot tap 'till it is hot, pour enough water over the biscuits till they are just covered, stand for approx one hour or till biscuits have soaked up the liquid and are soft. Put the mince into a bowl, add 3 heaped teaspoons of Insectivore and mix well using a fork and/or your hands. Mix should lose its pink look. If not add a little more insectivore. This will be a dry mix. DO NOT add water at this stage. Kitten biscuits, drain off any excess liquid, using the fork, mash up the biscuits, put the other 3 teaspoons of Insectivore onto the biscuits and mix well. This should be quite moist. Now combine the biscuits and the meat together using fork and/or your hands. This mix is like making scones. If a little tacky, add a little more Insectivore. If a little dry add a little water. Now roll mix into balls about the same size of golf balls, place into a freezer bag. Lay the freezer bag in the freezer with all the balls side by side. Freeze until needed. Take out one or more balls as required. Can stay in the freezer for around 6 months before freezer burn starts happening. Roll into appropriate size balls for bird, best to have them smaller rather than larger so as to avoid choking, place meat onto toothpick/wooden skewer with tips cut off, roll into worm shape, dip into bowl of water (DO NOT shake excess water off meat) & feed to bird.

Large birds like Magpies, Kurrawongs, and Crows can also have their diet supplemented with DOG biscuits soaked in hot water and given as well with meat mix (but not mixed together)

d) Sludge mix. For nectar & fruit eating birds. Some chick bird’s pallets may not be ready for the fruit component, so re-try weekly. One heaped teaspoon baby dessert fruit e.g.: Apple & Peach, Pear & Berries etc. mix together 3 teaspoons of cold tap water in a little bowl and ½ teaspoon lorrikeet hand rearing food and ¼ teaspoon Insectivore. Leave out fruit for honey eaters & chicks not ready for it. METHOD Mix together the water and lorikeet food, add the Insectivore, mix well and add the baby food. Mix well. If too thick add a little water. If too thin add a little extra baby food. Should be the consistency of thickened cream poured out of the bottle.

e) First type of Honeyeater food. Lorikeet Hand Rearing mix. In a D cup mix together about ½ D cup of cold tap water with about 1½ teaspoons lorikeet mix. Add 2 drops only of Liquid nectar. Mix well. Should come out the consistency of runny cream. Let it stand 10 minutes. If too thick add a little more water, if too thin add a little more lorrie mix. Leave in D cup and place in basket/box or you can dip meat into & feed to bird occasionally. Can also be placed in candle holders and put onto the bottom of cage/box.

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f) Second type of Honeyeaters food. In a D Cup use ¼ D cup warm water from the tap, add 1 teaspoon Wambaroo Lorikeet & Honeyeater Food & 2 drops of liquid nectar. Mix well. Leave D cup in basket/box for chick. Can also be used to dip meat into occasionally. Can also be placed in candle holders and put onto the bottom of cage/box.

g) Fruit/Berry eaters. As the chick grows, you can chop up into appropriate size pieces all different types of fruit to feed to your chick. Unfeathered – meat mix only & the juice of squashed fruit on it occasionally. Starting to get feathers - each feed, give them a small piece of fruit squashed with a fork, then a piece of meat mix etc. OR mash up with a fork a few pieces of one type of fruit like mango, mix in some insectivore and meat mix, combine and using tweezers feed to chick. Vary the fruit from feed to feed for variety. Fully feathered/adult, larger chunks of fruit. As the chick grows (fully feathered) or an adult, start leaving bits of fruit speared onto a branch of bush in basket/box for them to pick at. Choose fruit from the area they live in e.g.: strawberries, grapes, apples, pears, peaches, oranges. Berries like blackberries (other berries you can buy, even though they are readily available in supermarket are not usually found in the wild). Try to go to release site and collect native berries particularly figs, peaches (native) that the birds will eat when released.

h) Seed eaters: There are different types of seeds on the market for different types of birds. Try not to buy cheap food from the supermarket as this contains a round orange coloured seed that the birds do not eat and you pay to buy it just to throw it away. Dearer brands have only a small amount of this junk seed in it. Buy the seed type for your bird. Large bird can have Galahs mix, smaller birds can have Cockatiel mix with some extra Budgie mix mixed in. NEVER buy any seed that contains BLACK sunflower seeds. You need to buy the mixes that contain the grey sunflowers. Black sunflowers to a parrot is like chocolate to a human. We want to eat all the wrong foods to the detriment of our diet and healthy food intake. Sick chicks can be given a food called Vetafarm or Paswells that can be made into a liquid to crop feed or syringe feed heaped teaspoon in 30ml warm water from the tap (not boiling) stand in a bowl of hot water to keep warm. Should be consistency of runny custard after a couple of minutes. If too thick add water, if too thin add more mix. Should be baby food temperature for humans so as not to burn their crop. Crop feed or syringe feed to baby or sick adult bird. Careful not to get onto feathers or it sticks like cement. I put ¼ teaspoon baby Farax into mix and I find it doesn’t stick to feathers. You also need to go collect natural seeds and plants for them to eat. Grass seeds are great. Go to your local park before they mow it and collect all the different types of ripe seeds. Grass roots are also good from Kikuyu grass. Wattle seeds, wattle flowers and new shoots on gum trees are also good foods for your parrots, Doves & Finches. Remember the water.

i) Lorikeets are nectar eaters: They have a furry tongue that allows them to eat the nectar. They also eat a very small amount of natural seeds. Don’t give them seeds in captivity as this can cause the fur on their tongues to rub off meaning they can’t eat nectar in the wild. There are two types of Lorri food. Wet and Dry. Except for AviOne all dry mixes cannot have water added to make them a wet mix. You need to provide both dry and wet food in the container for birds as well as water. Keep flowers fresh in their container, aviary by placing branches of flowering Bottle flowers in water (that they can’t get into and drown). They will eat Gums, Wattle (some types don’t keep), Mullica, Paper Barks, Brush, Grevillea.

j) Magic Mix: Using a mortar & pestle put in one teaspoon of Insectivore and grind it down a lot finer. When ground, mix in one teaspoon PolyAid plus and mix well. Store in a jar till needed. Mix with water and syringe feed to birds that won’t eat, small birds if you›rr worried about feeding them and chicks with eyes closed and no feathers yet

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13. FEEDING TECHNIQUES/ Food & Weight Charts

Below are techniques for feeding difficult birds. It usually works. These techniques can be used for any birds. Using WIRE'S Charts below.

- Work out type of bird chart a) e.g. FRUGIVORES - Group E
- Weigh bird. Work out by bird weight in column E how much bird should eat daily e.g. 20 gram Fig bird in column E eats 21 grams food daily
- Chart b) - shows the typical adult weights for your bird. These are approximate release weights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bird weight</th>
<th>Group A</th>
<th>Group B</th>
<th>Group C</th>
<th>Group D</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Species Examples</th>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Suggested Captive Diet</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Granivores</td>
<td>Pigeons, finches &amp; parrots</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Quality bird seed of appropriate size &amp; small quantities of green leafy vegetables and grasses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omnivores</td>
<td>Magpies, ravens, butcherbirds</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>50:50 of minced meat, &quot;Insectivore&quot; (Wombaroo) &quot;Insecta-Pro&quot; (Vetafarm), as pellets supplemented with mealworms or insect covered foliage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insectivores</td>
<td>Swallows, flycatchers, pardalotes, Kingfishers, nightjars</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>60:40 of minced meat, &quot;Insectivore&quot; (Wombaroo) Insecta-Pro (Vetafarm), as pellets supplemented with pinkies, mealworms or insect covered foliage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nectivores</td>
<td>Honeyeaters, Lorikeets</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Lorikeet or honeyeater powder reconstituted as a liquid in a D-cup</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frugivores</td>
<td>Koels, Figbirds, channel-bill cuckoos, fruit pigeons</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Chopped fruit, berries, dusted in &quot;Insectivore&quot; (Wombaroo) &quot;Insecta-Pro&quot; (Vetafarm),</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnivores</td>
<td>Kookaburras, Kingfishers, Frogmouths</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Whole animals: fuzzies &amp; adult mice, large insects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carnivores</td>
<td>Herons, plovers, ibises, egrets &amp; other waders</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Whole small fish, mice, &quot;Insectivore&quot; pellets</td>
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<tr>
<td>Herbivores</td>
<td>Ducks, coots, Swamphens</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>Green leaf vegetables (not cabbage), fowl pellets, mealworms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piscivores</td>
<td>Cormorants, pelicans, shearwaters</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>Whole fish of appropriate size such as whitebait or pilchards but not canned</td>
</tr>
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TO BE REPLACED BY WIRES WITH UPDATED VERSION

| Table 3 Typical Weights and Food Groups for Adult Birds |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| (in grams, range xx-xx or xx/xx = female/male) |
| **Apostlebird**  | **B** 110-135   | **Honeyeater, Scarlet**  | **D** 8-11   |
| **Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike**  | **B** 100-150   | **Lorikeet, Rainbow**  | **D** 120-130   |
| **Bowerbird, Satin**  | **E** 165-260   | **Lorikeet, Scaly-breasted**  | **D** 70-80   |
| **Butcherbird, Grey**  | **C** 75-110   | **Lorikeet, Musk**  | **D** 70-85   |
| **Cough, White-winged Black**  | **B** 320-370   | **Lorikeet, Little**  | **D** 40-50   |
| **Cockatiel**  | **A** 80-100   | **Magpie**  | **A** 320-360   |
| **Cockatoo, Gang Gang**  | **A** 250-300   | **Magpie Lark (peewee)**  | **B** 85-130   |
| **Cockatoo, Sulphur Crested**  | **A** 815-975   | **Masked Lapwing**  | **A** 230-400   |
| **Cockatoo, Yellow-tailed Black**  | **A** 610-900   | **Nightjar, Owlet**  | **B** 40-45   |
| **Corella, Little**  | **A** 485-590   | **Noisy Miner**  | **D** 60-70   |
| **Corella, Long-billed**  | **A** 555-600   | **Owl, Sooky**  | **C** 490/890   |
| **Cuckoo, Channel-billed**  | **E** 560-925   | **Owl, Powerful**  | **C** 1.2/1.4kg   |
| **Cuckoo, Fan-tailed**  | **B** 45-50     | **Owl, Sth. Boobook**  | **C** 250/315   |
| **Cuckoo, Shining-bronze**  | **B** 25       | **Owl, Barm**  | **C** 310-360   |
| **Currawong, Pied**  | **A** 250-360   | **Owl, Masked**  | **C** 420-1.2kg   |
| **Dollar Bird**  | **B** 125-143  | **Pardalote, Spotted**  | **B** 11-13   |
| **Eagle, Wedge-tailed**  | **C** 4.2/3.2kg | **Parrot, King**  | **A** 210-265   |
| **Fantail**  | **B** 8       | **Parrot, Red-rumped**  | **A** 60-65   |
| **Figbird**  | **E** 90-135   | **Pigeon, Common Bronzewing**  | **A** 320-350   |
| **Finch, Red-browed**  | **A** 8-13     | **Pheasant Coucal**  | **B** 500-550   |
| **Finch, Zebra**  | **A** 8       | **Pigeon, Wonga**  | **A** 330-500   |
| **Friarbird, Noisy**  | **D** 90-130   | **Pigeon, Crested**  | **A** 150-250g   |
| **Frogmouth, Tawny**  | **C** 280/350  | **Raven, Australian**  | **A** 450-650   |
| **Galah**  | **A** 330-350  | **Robins**  | **B** 12-14   |
| **Goshawk, Brown**  | **C** 570/310  | **Rosella, Crimson**  | **A** 120-150   |
| **Kestrel, Nankeen**  | **C** 185/165  | **Rosella, Eastern**  | **A** 100-110   |
| **Kingfisher, Sacred**  | **C** 40-50   | **Rosella, Pale-headed**  | **A** 90-120   |
| **Kite, Black-shouldered**  | **C** 300/260  | **Silvereye**  | **B** 12-15   |
| **Kite, Whistling**  | **C** 850/700  | **Swallow, Welcome**  | **B** 12-18   |
| **Koel, Common**  | **E** 245-250  | **Thornbills**  | **B** 6-8   |
| **Kookaburra, Laughing**  | **C** 310/380h  | **Wattle Bird, Red**  | **D** 101/120   |
| **Honeyeater, Blue-faced**  | **D** 100-160  | **Wattle Bird, Little**  | **D** 60-80   |
| **Honeyeater, Lewin’s**  | **D** 24-40    | **Willie Wagtail**  | **B** 18-20   |
| **Honeyeater New Holland**  | **D** 20-25    | **Whistler, Golden**  | **B** 22-26   |
| **Honeyeater White-cheeked**  | **D** 18-22    | **Whipbird, Eastern**  | **B** 50-60   |
| **Honeyeater White-plumed**  | **D** 20-25    | **Wood-swallows**  | **B** 32-37   |
| **Honeyeater Spiny-cheeked**  | **D** 40-46    | **Wrens, Superb Fairy**  | **B** 9-12   |


Many birds are stressed and frightened in captivity (though they don't show it usually). Kookaburras & Tawns particularly get stressed in captivity and people often find it hard to feed these birds

c) ALL MEAT EATER BIRDS
1/. You give them PolyAid mixed in water (enough that the water goes a beige shade), dribbled into mouth or along beak crack, they drink it. This is a liquid food they can live on for up to 7 days without having to receive food (in rare cases).
2/. We open their mouths, put a small piece of meat at the back of the tongue (not down the throat), close the beak and sometimes they throw it out, and sometimes they swallow it. We follow this up with a little syringed water to help wash it down.
3/. When they start swallowing we then tap the meat on the side of the beak, they open the beak and we put the meat inside.
4/. Usually takes around three days to train the bird with a new way of eating. Keep up the PolyAid mix until bird is eating properly
5/. If bird not in care for more than 5 days, If they choose not to eat but take the PolyAid mix OK, we often don't stress them out by forcing them to eat. We just stay with the PolyAid
6/. If concussed, we give PolyAid until over concussion before reassessing if bird can be released or keep longer and put onto food

d) Tawnies
1/. Again with the PolyAid mix and same as for kookaburras above
2/. Between the beak and the eyes you will find a few outward protruding feathers. Tickle these with meat on a skewer, bird usually responds by opening its mouth
3/. Just place the food inside the mouth, walk away. Most tawnsies don't like you to watch them whilst they are eating
4/. Another way to get them to open their mouth is to raise your non food bearing hand near their face. Their defense mechanism comes in and the open their mouth to ward off predators. Quickly drop food in and walk away

e) Honeyeaters
1//. Mix up Lorrie wet (runny) in a small candle holder
2/. Holding the small bird firmly, dip and hold their beak in the mix until their tongue comes out. Once they taste the mix they usually start lapping automatically. Be careful to dip only the tip of the tongue into the mix below the nostrils on the beak as you don’t want food being absorbed into lungs.

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Table 4 Some Common Weights of Sea birds, Waterfowl and Waders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coot</td>
<td>M -570, F - 520</td>
<td>Gull (Silver) C</td>
<td>265-315</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormorant (Great) C</td>
<td>2.2-2.5kg</td>
<td>Heron (White-faced) C</td>
<td>550-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormorant(Little Black) C</td>
<td>520-1.210kg</td>
<td>Heron, Rufus Night C</td>
<td>800g</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormorant(Pied) C</td>
<td>1.3-2.2kg</td>
<td>Ibis Aust, White) C</td>
<td>M 1.7-25, F1.4-1.9kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cormorant(Pied) C</td>
<td>410-810</td>
<td>Lapwing (Masked) B</td>
<td>230-400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duck (Aust. Wood) E</td>
<td>700-800</td>
<td>Moorhen (Dusky) E</td>
<td>350-700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duck (Pacific Black) E</td>
<td>900-1300</td>
<td>Pelican C</td>
<td>4-6.8kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duck (Grey Teal) E</td>
<td>360-600</td>
<td>Penguin, Little C</td>
<td>1kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egreit (Cattle) C</td>
<td>330-390</td>
<td>Shearwater (Wedge-tailed) G</td>
<td>M 8 F 300-570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Godwit (Bar-tailed) C</td>
<td>250-450</td>
<td>Shearwater (Sooty) C</td>
<td>M 8 F 650 – 950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grebe (Australian) C</td>
<td>100-200</td>
<td>Shearwater (Short-tailed) C</td>
<td>M 8 F 480-600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gull (Kelp) C</td>
<td>F 830, M 1050</td>
<td>Swan (Black) E</td>
<td>M -1050, F – 850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gull (Pacific) C</td>
<td>F 1.1, M 1.6kg</td>
<td>Tern (Caspiian) C</td>
<td>650-850</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tern (Grezed) C</td>
<td>310-365</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: SOSSA (1995), Heather & Robertson (2002), HANZAB.
f) Doves
Unlike other seed eaters who regurgitate food to their young, Doves open their mouths and regurgitate into their throats, the chick then licks it out of the mother’s throat. Hence other than Crop feeding them you need to feed them from a small container raised just above their heads so they can lick the food out. Once they have learnt to take from the container you can slowly start lowering the container to a more suitable height.
g) Seed eaters
Parrots and Finches mostly. Parent regurgitates food into chick’s mouth. We CROP feed most of these birds. If you want to learn to Crop feed, talk to your Head Carer/Mentor for a one to one instruction lesson and demonstration. Otherwise you can syringe feed these birds. Make the mix up to recommended temperature on box; keep the container in another bowl of hot water to keep it warm. Put a bib around birds head to catch any drips. Using a 5ml syringe draw up some liquid and feed to bird. Take syringe to beak and using the end of the syringe gently lift up the top beak and squeeze a little onto the tongue. Bird should start lapping it up. If bird is eating easily, change to a 20ml syringe and shovel it in as quickly as the bird can eat it.

- Sometimes a parrot refuses to eat even though you have fed it for days using this food. It could be because of Sour crop. When crop is empty, make up some acidophilus into warm water and get the bird to take this. Should pass through the crop in around 30 minutes and bird ready to feed again.
- If food sticking to birds feathers, wipe it off at the end of the feed. If hard to get off, next time put about 1/4 teaspoon of Farax into the food, this for some unknown reason helps the food not to stick to feathers
- Always wait till the crop is empty before next feed. NEVER give food to a bird with food already in its crop.
- If bird refusing to take food, talk to head Carer/Mentor for advice.
- Try to never get food onto bird’s feathers as the washing of birds can cause damage to their feathers

You can buy bulk Insectivore and other dried foods from COOINDA DOWNS
Ph: 1300788787     fax: 0242843011
Email: Bronwyn@cooinda.com
Web: www.cooinda.com

14. HOW OFTEN TO FEED
Chicks with no feathers and eyes not yet open, demand feed. That is every time they beg. This varies between species. Could be every 5 minutes to every 15 minutes. As the chick grows the time between feedings gets longer. Eyes open, feathers starting to form – every 15 mts extending to every 30 mts. Feathered – every 30 mts to 1 hour. On the perch – every hour to 2 hours. Adult birds at least 4 large meals a day. Small birds like swallows, wrens need feeding every one to two hours as adults.

15. LIVE FOODS
There are many types of live foods you can feed your chick as it grows.
- Meal worms. Squeeze their heads with your tweezers, offer to chick. Meal worms can grip/latch onto throat on way to stomach which is why we squeeze their heads. If like someone I know, you can’t do this, drop them in a D cup of water for a few minutes prior to feeding. Put alive into an appropriate bowl with a little insectivore. Meal worms on their own have little food value. By them eating the Insectivore in the bowl you are giving them vitamins. Live worms also teaches the chick to catch and eat live food
- Crickets. Buy from pet shops or grow your own
- Wood roaches. Buy from pet shops or grow your own
- Fly maggots are great for birds that need to hover & catch food like swallows. As the maggots hatch & turn into flies for chicks to catch. Order at most places that sell meal worms. Just a small $5 container usually
16. HYGIENE for both you and your bird

Your Hygiene
Your hygiene is very important. Remember to:

- Wash your hands after handling chicks
- Wash your hands after feeding as you are handling raw meat
- Wash your hands after changing nesting material (tissues etc) or cleaning basket/box
- Wipe hands with Anti-Bacterial jell after touching each parrot. Use five times then wash hands

Bird hygiene

- Never leave prepared bird food out of the fridge. Normal meat hygiene rules apply. Meat can go off or have a bacterial growth that you don’t see that could cause problems to your bird
- Always wash your hands before handling/preparing bird food
- Always wash their basket/cage weekly
- Always wash their food/water containers regularly in hot soapy water
- Always wash their bedding/nest material separately from household clothes/items
- Always wear a mask when feeding or cleaning a cage with a diseased parrot as they are respiratory diseases that can be transferred to humans
- Carers with respiratory problems or Asthma SHOULD NOT care for parrots as the parrot diseases could cause them extra respiratory problems
- Wipe hand using an antibacterial gel between touching birds. You can do this 4 times then you need to wash your hands again. This helps to stop the spread of disease between birds.
- Carers with own pet parrot(s) SHOULD NOT do parrots as you could bring home a diseased bird that could infect your own bird(s).

17. BEFORE YOU RELEASE A CHICK.

- No matter what type of chick bird you raise, you need to ensure that before bird is released (unless fledgling is put back with parent or adopted to other parents) that you go and collect wild food from the area the bird will be released into to feed to them otherwise, your bird could die of starvation as it may not recognise wild food as food to eat.
- Parrots & seed eaters, collect grass seeds, flowering plant seeds and blossoms, leaf tips from trees
- Meat eaters, collect grass hoppers, cicadas, grubs off trees
- Honeyeaters. Collect flowering plants
- Fruit eaters. Collect native figs and other berries for them to eat
- Unfortunately your chick will not find a bowl full of meal worms when hungry in the wild, so let them forage in leaf litter on bottom of aviary. Hang native flowers and berries and leaves hanging in the aviary for them to fly up to feed from

18. PREPARING FOR RELEASE

Before you can release your bird you have to ensure it can fly properly and recognize wild foods to eat. If you do not have an adequate size aviary for flight practice, please consult with Head Carer/Mentor as to where the bird can go to acquire flight practice
19. RELEASING YOUR BIRD

Release

An adult bird/chick is ready for release when:

- They can recognize and gather and eat their own food
- They can perch
- They can fly and in some birds can hover and catch food whilst hovering
- Can drink water on their own
- Chicks you raised only – They have been wet either by a storm or by you hosing them (gently - fine spray from above to represent rain)
- Chick has parents that it can be reunited with

To release an adult you raised from a chick before they can do all of these could result in the death of the bird in the wild. Some times we get the chick back to its parents before this stage and let them continue the training. It is best to work this out with your Head Carer/Mentor as different birds have different requirements so it can be reunited with its family. Depending on the species, you must have taught your chick the correct food gathering method e.g.:

- Some birds like Dollar Birds, Swallows & Fairy Martins catch food on the wing, therefore they need to be taught to catch moving food. Do this by placing their food on the end of a wooden skewer. When perched, slowly move the food past their beaks, they have to grab it off the moving stick. Next stage is you hold the food on the skewer away from the bird. They MUST be able to fly over, hover in flight and take the food off the skewer. For Dollar Birds they need to be able to catch the food you throw up in the air before release

- Magpie Larks (Pee Wee’s,) magpies, crows need to catch worms on the ground not always out of a bowl of food on the ground. Put the bird in an aviary or large box, scatter the live food and let the bird catch it themselves. In the wild their food is not presented to them in a dish

- Flower/ Nectar eaters. Have flowers placed away from the perch (make sure the flowers are secure that when bird lands on them to feed, they don’t fall over) so bird has to go to them to feed. To encourage your bird to feed on the flowers, dribble the sludge mix onto the flower for them to lick off. Use native flowers from the area they will be released in. This may mean a drive there before release to gather food. In suburbia it will be Melalucas, Gravilias, Callistemon (bottle Brush) and some flowering gums In natural bush areas, go and pick a variety of flowering off shrubs & trees and let the bird have a go at all of them. Some they will reject, but this is natural. By doing this, you are giving your bird a taste of the food it can look for on release. If you give the wrong flowers, will the bird instinctively know which flowers to eat instead?

- Fruit & fig birds. Likewise go and gather the correct native fruit and berries from the release site. Spear them onto foliage so they have to search them out to feed. Again, presenting food to them in a D cup is not teaching them to look for food in the wild

- Parrots & Lorikeets. Leave a small bowl of liquid food in cage. Instead of crop feeding, hold up a small bowl of food above bird's head and firmly dip beak into container until bird starts lapping the food up. Slowly lower the bowl till it is on the ground.

- When eating from bowl, crush up some appropriate bird seed and mix into mix. As bird starts eating the seeds, increase seed ration and decrease wet food ratio till bird eating seed from dish
20. TIME FRAMES
How long do you keep a chick
This varies from species to species. The main thing is to not keep them for months. Parent birds get them out there quickly so they can fend for themselves. If the parent bird is killed, the chick needs to fend for itself quickly. By us keeping chicks too long, we could imprint a bad learning experience to the chick that when it is an adult, it teaches its chicks and if something should happen to the parent, the chicks could die

How long do we keep adult birds in care
The general guide is:
- Stunned - Observe and when recovered and if no other injuries - can go back straight away
- Concussed with no injuries – minimum 4 days up to 10 days
- Broken bone – keep wrapped for 10 days, un-wrap, check & go to rehab 10 days or re-wrap if necessary for another 5 days then 10 days rehab
- Neurological/paralysis – depends on severity but usually 10 to 30 days for paralysis to go then 14 days in rehab
- Suspect diseased parrot – keep isolated in separate room for 14 days, re-examine – if still not sure another 14 days
- Sick – on anti-biotic – course of anti-biotic is for 7 to 10 days then 14 days rehab
- Dog attack – 4 days observation
- Wounds – till wound healed then 10 days rehab
These are the MINIMUM time requirements. Some birds will need longer than this. Most birds that are going to die will do so in the first 4 days.

21. RAIN & STORMS
Your chick as an adult needs to experience these (outdoors) before they are released. If no storms/rain around, use a hose to wet your bird down. A gentle flow of water from above them, not a get stream aimed straight at them

Choose your weather conditions for release
- Choose early morning so bird has a chance to orientate itself with its environment unless it is a dollar bird who gets released at last light of day and tawnies that get released 2 hours after dark
- DO NOT release in a storm or if a storm warning for next 24 hours
- Check there is no predator birds waiting to catch your slow flying bird. It needs time to build up wing muscles
- DO NOT release in heat wave conditions or the forecast is for heat wave conditions within the next 5 days. Your bird has had all its needs provided and needs time to orientate where water & shelter is and to be accepted by resident birds and not chased away
22. OTHER INFORMATION

a) Learn from others
Never be frightened to ask another rehabilitator how they were successful with a particular bird species when yours keep dying. We learn tricks from each other.

b) Watch your bird
All birds can be different. I had 8 swallows once. Seven of them all feed the same but one eats differently. The birds will show you when they are ready for the next stage, like swallows will start to hover. Some fruit eating chicks will all eat grapes. Occasionally you will get one that won’t. Adjust for this odd one out.

c) Check your Commercial bird books
Check your commercial bird books. They have interesting things in there about your chicks. Habitat, where they usually reside in the wild, nest construction, foods they eat.

d) Talk to your Head Career/Mentor
If in doubt ring your Head Carer/Mentor. Your Head Carer/Mentor is there to assist you. I drove my Head Carer crazy always ringing up asking questions when I was learning. It is better to ask than to let the bird die

e) Rehabilitation plan for your bird:
 After it has fledged, whose aviary will it go to?
 After it has recovered from injury/sickness, whose aviary will it go to?
 If you need to pass it on to another carer, check with your Head Carer/Mentor to see the best place to transfer it to
 After aviary training, who will release the bird? You or the person with the aviary?
 Don’t leave it to the last minute to look for who to take it, plan it with your Head Carer/Mentor well in advance so the person with the aviary is expecting it and doesn’t take in too many other birds and get caught out with no space left for your bird.

f) Washing birds
Not recommended. But we need to do it occasionally. If a situation arises that you need to wash a chick, use warm water and have a rinse bowl ready. Have a heat pack ready in a warm nest. A towel to dry them off with.
 Never use chemicals or shampoos on birds as this can destroys their feathers (even if they look OK to you they may lose their water resistant quality)
 Never use circular motions when washing birds. Always stroke from head to tail direction
 Never stroke from tail to head as this could break the feathers
 Pat dry with a soft towel
 Put into warm nest (hair dryer on low setting can be used)
 Don’t dip bird in water, hold in your hand or place on a towel on table
 Never go off and leave a bird wet to answer phone or do something else. They can get a chill and die
 Try to be as quick as possible

g) Write it down
Buy a small exercise book and write down what you learn or instructions your Head Carer/Mentor gives you. In my book I write up each new bird species I get in. The size and types of food they need. Whether or not they need bush in their cage. What antibiotic I used. What I did wrong and could improve upon next time
h) **Ants and Rodents.**

If you don’t have them, chances are they will find your basket/box. I always spray with surface spray the area (once a month) where I will place my basket/boxes as a precaution. There is nothing worse than getting up and finding your bird & container covered in ants.

If you are doing parrots, dropped seeds in cage or onto floor will attract rodents like mice and rats. ALL Councils require a carer to minimise attraction of rodents to your property as where they find a feeding site, they will multiply and spread out to adjoining properties. Aviaries should also be vermin proofed in suburbia.

Rats and mice are also carnivorous and will eat sleeping small birds in cages or on perches in cages. They can chew the leg off a cockatoo or a beak off sleeping galahs if they sleep on the ground against the wire and sick or injured birds that cannot get away from them.

You can trap these rodents and feed them to Raptors or Snakes. Vermont proof you’re aviaries. Keep removing unused seeds or spilt seeds from cages so as to not attract vermin.

i) **Drowning**

When you put bottle in to keep plants alive for your bird, make sure they can’t get into it and not be able to get out and drown. I put strips of tulle or fly screen wire in mine so as to stop drowning

j) **Imprinting to humans and domestic cats & dogs**

We need to avoid imprinting birds otherwise the bird will not fly away when approached by a vicious dog, a spiteful child who might kill it or be taken an eaten by someone’s cat that is allowed out to roam.

Unfortunately all cats, dogs and even children are not as nice you’re yours are and if allowed to be around children, cats and dogs the bird comes to recognise them as passive and won't fly away therefore sitting there waiting to be killed. You went to all that hard work to raise the chick, so you want it to have the best chance of survival. Some imprinting can take place naturally with very small chicks to the carer and this is understandable and to break this, it is often recommended that the chick when a fledgling be transferred to another carer to break the cycle of dependence to one person if it has happened. others, when placed in aviary may lose their dependence on you.

Dogs and cats can be seen and heard from a distance. If setting up you’re aviary in a yard with dogs, simply put a barricade (fence) between aviary and dog area. Unfortunately cats can climb and therefore it is hard to exclude them from the backyard. It is important to remember, we humans have invaded their environment, and in suburbia birds need to adjust to living with humans and our pets. So seeing and hearing humans, domestic pets etc is a must. This is a fine line.

Sacred Kingfisher Juvenile
23. PRODUCTS WE USE TO HELP US CARE FOR BIRDS:

I. PSITTAVET ANTIBIOTIC FOR BIRDS: Always check with your Head Carer/Mentor/Vet before putting a bird on antibiotics. Your Vet/Mentor will help you using the Psittavet container and after weighing your bird work out and measure out the appropriate amount for the bird, mix this in 3ml water or water/polyaid mix for the first day then mix with 5ml of water thereafter. The 5ml of antibiotics to be given orally in even doses over a 12 hour period. Give for 7 days for cat/dog attacks. Use for cat attacks, dog attacks, bird shows signs of infection (fluffed up feathers). For Parrots. Work out daily dose then divide that amount between the number of crop/syringe feeds you will give bird each day. Remember, it is a water soluble crystal that has to be mixed in water.

II. POLYAID PLUS: Is a liquid food that can sustain a bird for up to 7 days. Using a 5ml syringe, add enough PolyAid until the water goes from clear to a medium beige colour. Good for weak birds, dehydrated birds, constipated birds. Difficult feeders, birds in shock. Buy from most Pet Shops for around $20.00.

III. BIRD WORMER: Undernourished parrots and some meat eaters may also need to be wormed. There are many brands of wormers on the market to choose from. Choose a liquid that covers them for: Threadworms, Caecal worm, Roundworm, Gape worm, Gizzard worm and Tapeworm. Mix the appropriate amount and syringe to your bird over the required period. Also include recommended dose into their water. Unfortunately just putting it into their water is not enough as you can't watch the bird to ensure it drinks enough. During the next 24 hours you should see a change in your bird’s droppings. Long greenish worms there, dropping not a blob like it usually is but stringy looking. This is the worms passing through them. Repeat again in 14 days. Buy from most Pet Shops for around $7 to $15.

IV. FIRST AID: Using the end of a tea spoon to take some powder out of container and mix in 1 ml of water and give orally by mouth using a syringe or eye dropper. Usually a few drops will be enough. Used for birds that come in weak to give them a quick boost. But from Cooinda Downs or most pet Shops.

V. A-D HIGH PROTEIN FOOD: You buy this at your local Vet and most pet shops. $2 to $3 for a small tin. This keeps well in the fridge. Mix a small amount with water till a thick runny consistency. Syringe feed to your meat eating bird twice daily for 3-4 days then give once or twice a week as a boost for birds still recovering from sickness. Use for meat eating birds only, birds that are constipated, birds that are very weak.

VI. CALCIUM: Your chick & fledgling bird needs 1 drop of liquid calcium each day for healthy bone development. Buy from pet shops called Sandos Calcium. Put one drop onto a piece of meat, roll it into the meat & dip into water & feed chick. Some rehabilitators use powder calcium which they either mix into their food for the day or place in their dipping water. All methods are OK so you need to look at which best suits you. Keep out a small amount in container for use and keep the bottle in the fridge. Lasts for months. Adult birds get enough calcium from Insectivore. Parrots & Lorri & honeyeater foods also contain calcium so no extra calcium required for them.

VII. ACIDOPHILUS (BIFIDUS): Powder, put a little amount into separate container for using. Using enough meat for one mouthful, 1 piece for each chick, flatten it out a bit, dip it into the acidophilus, roll into the meat, dip into water & feed to bird. Give no more than 1 piece usually at each feed if their stomachs are upset. Use on birds with upset stomachs. You can tell an upset stomach as the droppings will be brown, can be smelly, brown & white or runny instead of nice white & black reasonably firm ones. Parrots that won’t feed could have sour crop. When crop empty, mix ¼ teaspoon Acidophilus in 5ml luke warm water and crop or syringe liquid to bird. Keep unused portions in an air tight container in the fridge. Keeps for months. Buy from Chemists - in fridge at shop for around $30. Share with another carer to cut expenses down.
Use an approved detergent straight onto bird’s feathers

Gently lather bird using a little water making sure you work in the direction of the feather structure so as not to break or damage feathers.

Rinse the bird in fresh warm water taking care not to stroke against the feather Structure

Rinse the bird again and again.

Keep rinsing bird if you get detergent bubbles
Use different containers for rinsing till water clear (usually three/four times). If oil shows in water and bird not overly stressed you can repeat process a second time before drying. If bird stressed, dry and repeat next day or day after.

Dry bird by dabbing with a cloth

Use kitchen paper to absorb moisture

Place into an open box for ventilation with heat packs underneath (not electric heat). Be careful the bird does not get too hot.

Bird will finish drying naturally. NEVER use hair dryers or heaters to dry birds. Birds need to be kept warm after this process.
25. GROWING MEAL WORMS

Growing Meal Worms

SET UP.

You will need:
- Unprocessed Bran 4 to 6kg (approx) - purchase from produce stores or from the breakfast food isle in supermarkets
- Bucket or large container
- Fly screen wire or shade cloth
- Wights for fly screen wire or elastic for shade cloth
- Old tea towel, terry cloth or track pants material
- Recycled margarine containers with lids
- Recycled Ice Cream containers with lids
- Separate bucket for adult beetles

STARTING A NEW WORM COLONY
- When you have used all the worms out of your container, empty onto the garden the old Bran. Fill up with new Bran
- Use the container you have been keeping the beetles in, tip it into this container and set bucket up ready for new beetles
- You can add a few more beetles to lay extra eggs if required but not too many and remove them when dead
Life Cycle of Meal Worms:
- EGGS hatch and become worms. Worms are minute in size and grow. Stir the mix in summer and see it move as it is alive with eggs and worms
- EGGS are very light and become air borne. They stick to the sides of container—leave them alone, you find them on the floor around the container—sweep them up and throw away
- Worms when adult turn into a creamy white Larva. If you touch one it will jump. They just seem to sit on top of the Bran till they change into beetle
- LARVA turns into a black or brown beetle.
- BEETLE lays eggs in the material you provided, into the Bran itself, onto food in the Bran. Sometimes the string of eggs looks like a cobweb of eggs attached to a piece of food. Beetles die after they have laid all their eggs

FOOD to Feed to Meal Worms
- Chicken Starter or Turkey Starter. Chicken starter is also used as the food for ducklings so bird carers should have it on hand. Buy from produce or pet shops and sometimes in the pet isle of supermarkets.
- Shredded lettuce, cabbage, silverbeet/spinich
- Sliced carrot, apple
- Peetings of vege’s for dinner like carrot, potato, pumpkin
- Feed in Summer—every second day
- Feed in Winter—two to three times a week—more often in warmer weather

LOCATION to keep Meal Worms in
- SUMMER. Keep in a coolish location outside under cover so they do not get wet from rain or hosing garden. They need a little sunshine each day but not that much. Preferably early morning sun otherwise the Bran dries out and the worms could become overheated and die. Eggs hatch and grow quickly in the summer months
- WINTER. Keep in a warmish spot outside under cover’s they do not get wet from rain or garden hosing. They need warmth to produce eggs and grow. Egg hatching and worm growth slows down in winter.

MAINTENANCE REQUIRED to keep your worm farm healthy
- Each week remove the live beetles from the mix and place in a separate bucket with bran as the beetles will eat your eggs and small worm as they grow. Beetles will lay eggs in bucket, remove dead beetles so they don’t contaminate your Bran weekly. This bucket then becomes the start of new worm colony
- Worn droppings go to the bottom of the container. When harvesting worms or turning the mix over, you stir these droppings into the mix. These droppings are a pinkish brown in colour and are roundish to look at. If you don’t stir them in—don’t panic. They will sink back to the bottom in a couple of days.
- Remove old unused or dried up food once a week. If you find eggs attached to food, pull the string of eggs off and return to the mix. If just coating the food like sugar on a donut, leave the food in the container till they hatch then throw food away.
- As the worms grow they shed their skin. The skin is light and seems to sit on top of the Bran mix. Simply collect them by hand and throw away or blow them off the top. If you stir them into the mix you will contaminate the Bran
- Try not to stir the Bran till you have to. If you stir Bran too much it slows reproduction right down.

STORAGE FOR LATER USE
- During the quite Bird season (March to September hopefully), you may find you have an abundance of worms. This can also happen during the hot busy summer season. This is a good time to stockpile worms ready for when you need them
- I grade mine into two sizes. 1/. Small to Medium size worms placed into bran in a recycled margarine container with air holes in the lid for birds like Magpie Lark or Noisy Minor. These types of birds will consume around 30 meal worms 3 to 4 times a day. 2/. Medium to Large worms into Bran in recycled ice cream containers with air holes in the lid for birds like Butcher Birds, Magpies, Kookaburras. These types of birds will consume around 50 to 60 meal worms 3 to 4 times a day
- Put fresh Bran into recycled storage containers, put air holes in the lid. Give these worms a feed of carrot for two days. Discard any old or uneaten food. Place in fridge on bottom shelf above the crisper
- NEVER leave food in worm containers in the fridge as it will go off and turn the Bran sour
- Worms go into hibernation in the fridge. Remove from fridge once a month, feed with carrot for two days, remove uneaten food and replace back into fridge. Worms can last up to 6 months in fridge
- When taking worms out of fridge to feed to birds, feed worms for 12 hours with vege peelings and chicken crumble before you feed to birds so they bulk out for birds to eat. When 1st out of fridge they are a bit flat.
26. POX VIRUS

This virus affects fledglings through to sub-adults in meat eating birds like Magpies and Currawongs. It does not affect adult birds. Adults have built up immunity to it by the time they reach adulthood (if they haven’t died). This condition is usually treatable. One day the bird has no signs, next day infected. It usually starts with lumps appearing on the feet then up the legs and even the face.

Below are two treatment methods to try.

1/. COLD SORE CREAM for humans.
One of our carers tried this remedy and it worked, so try it first as it is quicker. She bought and used "Chemists Owns" brand of "Cold Sore Cream" that contains aciclovir 5%w/w strength. Any chemist COLD SORE CREAM would do as long as it has aciclovir 5%w/w strength in it.

HOW TO:
If the lesions are bleeding, clean the wound site with saline water then apply BETADINE to that area only. For the rest of the lesions, using a cotton bud wipe cream on the lesions morning and night for one day. NO anti-biotic given unless bird is suffering another condition that requires anti-biotic treatment. Keep isolated & confined for one week. If cleared up bird can resume re-habilitation with other birds - If not try our old tried and true cure (takes longer) below.

2/. Clean the lesions with Saline Water. Pat dry. Using a cotton bud - liberally spread Betadine all over the lesions. Re-paint with the Betadine three times a day till lesions fall off. Usually takes 10 to 14 days. You don't need to clean lesions in between applying Betadine, just the initial time.

27. INCORRECT DIET

There are times we get in an escaped pet or released pet that is suffering feather damage due to incorrect feeding by human owner. These birds usually have massive feather damage and feather loss, are often fat but can’t fly properly.

Once given a good healthy diet of proper parrot natural foods supplemented by commercial parrot seeds, the bird will often molt out the damaged feathers. A bird does not molt all its feathers in one go, this usually takes 12 months to happen. So these birds will be in care for a minimum of 12 months.
28. RAISING DUCKLINGS

Raising ducklings is a job, very easy to do but often very smelly. When ducklings come in it is important to:

- Make sure you don’t mix the species up as one species chick may try to kill another species chick (if smaller)
- Have them outside on nice sunny days in an escape proof enclosure as they are great escape artists and can jump quite high
- Bring chicks in of a night time and put under a lamp or on a heat pad covering half the floor space of container
- During the warm days outside they can have a small bowl of water to swim in. Make sure you have a rock or half brick in there for them to use as a stepping stone to get out of. You don’t want them to drown.
- No swimming water in the container for night time as you don’t want your chick to get cold and die
- In the yard pen give them two food dishes. One with a combination of dry food and one with greens. Give large drinking duck bowl. Buy from Pet Shops.
- DRY FOOD Mix should contain: Chicken/duck starter crumble, assorted small seeds like canary/cockatiel seed mixes. One teaspoon Insectivore, one teaspoon dry parrot raising powder. Put onto an up turned lid or shallow bowl and let them eat.
- GREEN FOOD Mix should contain: Finely chopped Iceberg Lettuce, Asian greens like Bok Choi, Spinich, Alfalfa sprouts cut small. Native grasses and seeds. Put into shallow bowl or up turned lid for them to graze in. No cabbage.
- In their night time container, try using a small holed ice cube tray. Put water in one end and dry food mix in the other end
- When you first get ducklings in, you have to teach them to eat. Dip their beak into water; dip into crumble/seed mix. They should lick it off, say yum and try it themselves. You might have to do this a few times till they get the hang of it.
- Of a night time give them an artificial mummy to snuggle up into. Use a new clean cotton mop, use a square of flannelette type material that is warm – draw up in the middle & tie and cut down along the peaks. Make sure there are no threads hanging loose for them to get caught in and break a leg. Now using a coat hanger or similar item, place it over the top of the box so the artificial mummy hangs down to where they can get under it.
- Ducklings need to be kept for around 14 weeks till mature for release. As the birds develop feathers, they can have larger water area to swim in, BUT remember, ducks are water proofed by parents so can drown if given too much water too soon.
- I raised these TEAL ducks (with dad) and when released I support feed them in my yard as Mum disappeared
- Clean container/yard daily to avoid smells & causing feet problems from walking on droppings.

29. PARROT DISEASES

Beak & Feather in advanced stages. People think they are old birds that have been released or escaped and want to keep them, but in actual fact they are badly diseased with beak & feather disease and should be humanely euthanaised as they are not coping in their environment and will spread disease to others.

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30. SKY GAZING PROBLEM
Sky gazing birds is when a birds head muscles pull along the back of the neck pulling the head directly back towards the tail and the throat muscles expand to accommodate this move.

Treatment: Incremin children’s Iron Tonic/Multi vitamins or any children’s liquid multi vitamins. Buy from any chemist shop. Give them liberal amounts, dip 2 -3 pieces of meat each feed in syrup each feed till rectified. You can also assist re-training of the muscles in neck and throat by making them bring their head down between their feet 3-4 times each feed by getting them to follow the food.

31. THROAT WORM
Throat worm can occurs in meat eating birds and is passed on from parent to chick. It is very common in most areas. Try using a medication called Moxidectin which kills them over 72 hrs. Acquire from Head Carer only. Follow directions for weight of bird. I usually pull them out when throat worm has died (looks like string in mouth & throat), there is no bleeding and no distress to the bird. Otherwise they can be left there and will eventually be passed in droppings or absorbed.

32. NEUROLOGICAL PROBLEMS
If bird has paralyzed legs contact Head Carer/Mentor for instructions on toileting and exercises to keep bird mobile. The swelling will hopefully go down in a couple of weeks and you will see the bird staggering around the basket/box. Use a towel to make ridges and flat areas for it to climb over, go down into as part of its rehab. Give it time. A yellow tufted honey eater with spinal injury, its tail was at a 45 degree angle to its body. It took 1 week to start moving, a second week to start flapping its wings and its tail to start straightening up. Released it on the third week. Tail not fully straight, but it could fly, perch, hover, and eat.

a) Make a snake for bird. Always keep the head upwards so they don't asphyxiate.
Give pain relief (metacam or similar vet product) morning and night time. for first three days which also is an anti-inflammatory.
b) On day 4, still giving pain relief twice daily, gently work your finger down the spine from the top of the neck to the tail. You are looking to feel a vertebra that is swollen to others around it. Bird usually gets agitated when you are near that spot. There in rare cases can be more than one damaged spot, so check whole spine. Once you have found the spot(s), gently using soft circular motions massage that area. Bird usually responds by closing eyes and looking contented. Do this three times a day till bird starting to move around. When starting to move around, make ridges and hollows in towel used on bottom of container so bird has to climb over them making bird lift the legs

c) Whilst paralysed, you need to toilet the bird. You do this by placing a couple of sheets of newspaper onto a table and anchor them down. Pick up the bird and holding from the legs up and under the wings, hold over paper so bird can flap their wings and toilet. Birds like to toilet whilst flying, that is why we get it all over our windshield in cars when driving. Do twice daily
d) Exercises for you to give to the bird are:
LEG STRETCH. Gently pull the leg out as far as it will go, then gently push it back into the body as far as it goes. Do five times to each leg three times daily
TABLE EXERCISE. Take bird to a table. Slowly move bird forward to table edge and gently touch bird’s toes on table edge. Bird’s reflexes should kick in and bird tries to lift feet onto table. Do three times, three times daily
E) When starting to recover, give them time each day in aviary. Give them low down perch to c limb onto, logs to climb over etc.
33. RECORD KEEPING

**ARC RECORDS DATABASE**

For all those new members, and also as a reminder for those members that need reminding, Wildlife ARC is required to keep a record of every animal that comes into the ARC. This is a condition of our carer’s licence and every carer is required to keep a record of the animals they have in care. Our Records Officer – Sally Hopkins has the difficult job of keeping the database up to date. We have allocated an email address for her at records@wildlife-arc.org.au.

It would be made much easier if all the phonies, carers and head carers sent their records in regularly. This is how our records system works.

** Phonies**

1. Allocate a number to each call
2. Record details on the Phonies Record Sheet (or ARC Records Spreadsheet that can be downloaded from the web page) including who was assigned to rescue the animal.
3. Send the Record Sheet to Sally at least every week (by email or post)

** Carers**

1. When you rescue or receive an animal you MUST let the Head Carer know within 48 hours.
2. You need to give the Head Carer the ARC number, Species, Description of the problem and what the outcome is (if known).
3. When an animal dies, is released or leaves your care, you MUST let the Head Carer know.
4. At the end of every month you should send the Head Carer an update of the animals still in your care and any that have departed since the last report.

Updates can be by phone, mail or email.

**Head Carers**

1. At the end of every month they MUST send a report to Sally with the details of all animals in their section.
2. It is their responsibility to make sure this happens.

**Records Officer**

1. The Records Officer will update the database with the information she is provided.
2. At the end of the year she will prepare a report for NPWS that lists the number of animals we have dealt with and their outcomes.
3. If there are any missing records, the records officer will send a copy of the database to the Head Carers and Phonies to chase up.

I would recommend that all carers download a copy of the Arc Records Sheet and keep adding to it as you get something new to care for. It is amazing when you look back and see how many animals you care for and makes it easy to give the Head Carers an update.

Please remember that if one cog in the chain breaks down our records become very incomplete. Currently over half our record for 2009 are incomplete. Not only does this make Sally’s job hard, but it makes the ARC look unprofessional and is in breach of our NPWS licence.

Remember that completing the records is a condition of being given the privilege to care for our native animals. Don’t place that in jeopardy.

As a member of ARC you are required to keep fauna records and transfer these records monthly to Head Carer so ARC can fulfill it’s license conditions with Nation parks Wildlife service. Arc process of record keeping is as below:
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35. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
Many thanks to the following person who provided a valuable service in compiling this manual

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Linda Wilson - ARC member
Sharron Jones - ARC member
Chris Randell - ARC member
Scott Jones - ARC Member
Jacquie Sessions - ARC member

We wish to acknowledge that some material contained in this manual was inspired by reading the following manuals.

- WIRES: Rescue, Rehabilitation & Release of Australian Birds 2007
- Dr Anne Fowler BSc(vet), BVSc, MACVS(Avian Health): Husbandry and rehabilitation of Injured native Birds 2008
- Dr Anne Fowler BSc(vet), BVSc, MACVS(Avian Health): Raising and Rehabilitating Orphaned Birds 2008
- Kathryn Keen: Native Bird Care Manual 1999
- WIRES is happy for you to use the updated chart provided WIRES and any other reference specifications are shown (I’ll detail these once I have the completed chart. Julie Fraser. WIRES Training Administrator March 2010

PHOTO'S
All photos used in this manual are stock photos from Authors collection or free photos available off the Internet