



SECOND THOUGHTS

DO YOU KNOW.....

.....what to do when a bird hits your window? Many people move to suburban areas and look forward to seeing wildlife in their yards. We build houses with large picture windows so we can enjoy nature. Unfortunately, hard surfaces that are invisible do not exist in nature and birds simply cannot understand that they can't fly through glass. The result is predictable; birds often crash head-long into our windows. If they aren't killed outright, a little help may give them that Second Chance.

If you discover a bird in your yard or patio beneath a window, chances are good it has hit the glass. Please, do not leave the bird laying outside; some other creature is almost certain to finish it off unless it recovers almost immediately. Take the

bird inside and place it in a CLOSED box or grocery bag. A few layers of paper towels in the bottom of the container will provide better traction and make it easier for the bird to stand. Put the container in a safe, quiet place in your house; a closet, bathroom or bedroom, for instance. It is not necessary to provide food or water and, in fact, doing so may be counter-productive. If the bird is unsteady on its feet and you put a large bowl of water in the container, the bird may fall in and drown or, at least, get wet and cold. After 15 to 20 minutes, take the container back outside and open the top. If the bird was just stunned, it will fly out of the container and you can pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

If the bird looks no bet-

ter after 20 minutes and still cannot fly, it is important that you take it to a rehabilitator as quickly as possible. The bird has probably suffered a spinal or head injury. As time passes, swelling occurs along the spine or in the skull causing symptoms to worsen. Serious swelling causes pressure which causes nerve damage. Nerves do not re-grow! Most rehabilitators have drugs which can stop and reduce swelling. The sooner the drug can be administered, the less damage will occur.

As with all wildlife injuries, some of these birds recover and some do not. By knowing how to help the bird, you give it the best chance to fly free once again. **NOW YOU KNOW!!!!!!!**

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