



DO YOU KNOW.....?

HOW TO BE PREPARED FOR WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES?

Many times, citizens arrive at Second Chance with a bird or animal flying or crawling loose in their car. The creature was found, stunned, by the road but recovered sufficiently during the "mission of mercy" to have hidden itself in the bowels of the vehicle. This situation is distressing to all concerned and is easily avoided with a little advance planning.

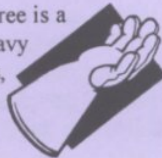
The number one item to keep in your car is a box. Actually, I recommend two boxes; a cardboard pet carrier, which can fold flat, for medium to large animals and a shoe box for smaller creatures. A flat-bottomed grocery bag will also work just fine for small birds and takes up virtually no space. Equip your containers with a towel (no stringy rags, please) and keep them in the trunk. This simple step assures that the rescued

animal will remain safe and secure until help can be obtained.



The second helpful item is a net. Of course, the towel kept in the box can be of use in scooping up an injured animal but a net is easier to handle.

Item number three is a pair of heavy leather gloves, like welder's work gloves.



With these three items, you should be able to capture and transport most wildlife with relative ease and safety. You should, however, keep your own safety in mind. Certain animals (hawks, owls, herons) need special handling. They are capable of hurting you real bad. Raccoons may have been hit by cars because they have been disoriented by rabies. Your heart may go out to these creatures but your mind must rule your actions! If you have a car phone, it may be best to contact Animal

Control for assistance (301-279-1694). Both the Montgomery County and Gaithersburg Animal Control offices are very good about delivering wildlife to Second Chance or another rehabilitator if the animal has a chance of surviving.

Once the animal is secure, PLEASE take it to a licensed rehabilitator as quickly as possible. Emergency personnel who deal with human trauma victims refer to the "golden hour." They know the sooner treatment is begun the greater the chance of survival; the same is true of animals. Rescuing the animal does little good if you simply keep it for a week or two before seeking assistance. Don't worry about food and water. If you were hit by a car you probably wouldn't be hoping someone would hand you a burger and a soda.

Helping animals doesn't have to be difficult; just be prepared, be careful and obtain skilled help as quickly as possible. It's easy as 1,2,3.

NOW YOU KNOW!!!!!!

Reprinted from "Second Thoughts" newsletter – October 1996.
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