

# Protocols for First Aid Stations

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### **Introduction**

MRWC First Aid Stations are an extension of the main facility and therefore must adhere to all of the protocols, procedures, and policies set down by MRWC Board of Directors and staff.

First Aid Stations are required to keep in contact and discuss treatment with hospital staff when a patient arrives. Included in this handbook are just the most common injuries you may see. MRWC has protocols for other injuries, endangered species, orphans, and many other situations.

It is unlikely you will have the patient longer than 1-2 days but in cases of bad weather or if you are unable to travel, please consult with MRWC staff for further instructions.

### **Medication**

All medications provided to First aid Station staff are natural and therefore no licensing is required.

The following protocols are given for birds as they will be the most common patient received. If a mammal is admitted please talk to MRWC staff for direction.

#### **Ringers Lactate**

Ringers Lactate is an electrolyte solution that is meant to re-hydrate patients. Other options to keep on hand would be dried electrolytes (handy and ready to mix any time) or Pedalyte.

Electrolytes should be given to ALL patients on arrival. Electrolytes should never be mixed with homeopathic treatments or milk. It can be mixed with Nutrical. Administer electrolytes when the patient arrives then wait 15-20 minutes before giving any homeopathic treatments.

Approximate dosages are as follows:

- larger birds - 30cc tubed
- medium birds - 5-10cc tubed
- smaller birds - small amounts dropped in the mouth

#### **Yunnan Biayao**

Yunnan is a Chinese herbal remedy. It was used extensively during the Korean and Vietnam War to stop bleeding, both internally and externally.

We recommend that the contents of one Yunnan capsule should be mixed with 10cc of sterile water and shaken well before each use. One full pill can be given to birds, pigeon sized, and larger if the patient has had a severe impact.

Yunnan should only be given to patients that are suspected to have internal bleeding. Patients who have been caught on barbed wire, hit windows, or been hit by cars are the main ones to receive Yunnan. Treatment should be given 4 times per day for the first 4 days.

Yunnan also has no strict dosage, but we recommend the following:

- large birds - 1cc
- medium birds - 0.5cc
- small birds - a few drops

If you are giving a full pill, give one in the morning and one at night.

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### Oil of Oregano

Oil of oregano is anti-viral, anti-bacterial, and anti-fungal and is the best choice as an antibiotic for most cases. It is made from a wild oregano and not made from the oregano that we eat in our home cooking. Severe infections will be treated with antibiotics when the patient reaches the Centre.

Patients who have been caught by a cat, caught on barbed wire, impacted something like a vehicle or window or who have open wounds require a drop or two of Oil of oregano. Birds that have a cat injury or anything with an open wound must have a drop on the wound and a drop orally.

### Nutrical

Nutrical is a paste form food that is very fatty and contains all the amino acids to provide a complete protein, along with other nutrients. When mixed with lactated ringers it is the first food offered to a starved patient. It should not be given longer than two days. It can be given to sustain an injured patient who cannot take solid food.

Approximately an inch of Nutrical can be mixed with 20cc of fluids. It is best mixed with a small amount of hot water and mixed thoroughly before adding the ringers.

### Homeopathic Remedies

Homeopathic pills must never be touched with hands. Tip one pellet into the bottle cap and put into approximately 10cc of **sterile** water. It should be kept in the fridge. Shake well before each usage and if it doesn't look completely clear it should be thrown away.

Homeopathic treatments have no dosage, but the following is recommended:

- larger birds - 0.5cc
- medium birds - 0.25cc
- smaller birds - a drop or two

All homeopathic treatments are most effective when given on the membranes in the mouth.

Homeopathic treatments can be mixed together to make a cocktail but never mixed with or given within 15 minutes of administering other oral treatments, fluids, milk, or feed.

### Arnica

Arnica is a homeopathic treatment used in cases of physical trauma, which is the most common reason MRWC receives patients. Arnica reduces swelling, seals off leaking vessels, helps reabsorb blood, reduces pain, and calms the patient.

Arnica should be given to all patients. Extremely shocky patients should be given the treatment every 15 minutes, reducing to 4 times a day as patient stabilizes.

### Cicuta Virosa

CV is should be administered for head trauma.

### Hypericum

Hypericum is given for nerve damage.

## **Injury Protocols**

### **Impact or Stress Injury**

Patients that have been hit by a vehicle, hit windows, were caught on barbed wire, or any other form of impact or severe stress are to be treated as follows:

For small to medium sized raptors -

- Perform an extremely short exam to look for broken bones, lesions, uneven eye dilation, mouth colour, swelling, dysfunction of a leg or wing, weight, general condition, or other injuries.
- Put patient on a towel “doughnut” with low heat under the towel.
- Alternate 10cc of electrolytes, 0.5cc of Arnica, and 0.5cc of Yunnan every 15 minutes (for very severe patients only). Reduce to every half hour once patient is stable, then to every hour, and then two hours as the patient improves. If the patient is not severely stressed, once an hour on the first day will be enough.

For large sized raptors and mammals -

- Continue the same treatment 6 times the second day. Continue Yunnan 4 times daily and a couple of drops of oil once. Weigh daily if keeping more than two days.

For smaller patients such as songbirds -

- Use the same treatment as larger birds but only a few drops of fluids, one drop of Oil of Oregano, and a couple of drops of Arnica and Yunnan per treatment.

All impact injuries must receive Oil of Oregano from day 1 – 8.

### **Head Trauma**

- Treat the same way as for impact/stress.
- Add CV into the Arnica
- For severe cases you can use full pills instead of liquid, given every hour. Ex: 1 for a Robin, 4 for a Great Horned Owl

### **Leg Dysfunction**

- Treat the same way as for impact/stress but add CV/Hypericum into the Arnica.

### **Emaciation**

- This procedure will vary in length of time depending on the severity of the emaciation
- This procedure is mainly for raptors as they are the most commonly seen patient in this condition
- First day – 30cc fluids twice then fluids mixed with Nutrical, 6 more times
- Keep patients on low heat or in brooder and in a dark, quiet room
- Second day – continue fluids and nutrical 6 times, give oil of oregano once
- Contact MRWC for protocols for smaller birds or mammals

### **Cat Mauls**

- Cat claws carry bacteria that can kill a small songbird in as little as 48 hours. It is extremely important to administer antibiotics immediately to any patient where a cat attack is known or even suspected. Put Oil of Oregano both on wound and orally.
- Cats also put birds into shock so keeping the patient on heat, very quiet, reasonably dark, and quietly administer Arnica, Aconite, and Bio12, 6 times in the first 2 days.

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- Beginning the second day, offer Nutrical and fluids 4 times daily if the bird is not eating on its own. Contact MRWC for further direction.

### Electrocution

- Electrocution in its early stages can look like an impact injury. There can be swelling in a wing but no bruising. The swollen area will be colder than the rest of the wing. There may be small entry and exit wounds with a smell of burned flesh but there may be no wounds at all. One wing will often hang with decreased mobility.
- Electrocution after 4-5 days will show itself with a portion of a wing very cold with some of the skin beginning to slough. One, or both feet, may have turned a darker orange colour and sit in a curled position with little movement. Both wings may be affected, a wing and a foot, both feet, or at times just one wing or foot. Most commonly, one wing and one foot will be affected.
- Advanced electrocution will show in loss of use of a foot, wing or any combination of the two, and severe skin sloughing. There may also be a great deal of weight loss and some neurological damage.
- There is no cure for electrocution and euthanasia is almost always the result. Make the patient comfortable and offer fluids twice a day until it is moved to MRWC.