

INJURED/STRANDED BIRDS

PROCEDURE TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE
GENERAL PUBLIC AND AUTHORISED
PERSONNEL

Wild Birds Regulation Unit
14/10/2016

Step 1

- ▣ **Confirm that the bird is indeed injured!**

Newly fledged birds will continue to be fed by their parents. Should be left where they are, unless they are in an imminent threat and thus may require relocation to a safer location within the same site.



Step 2

- ▣ Call WBRU on **79770203** or the Police on **119** with the following information:
 - ✓ details of the specimen (if known)
 - ✓ type of injury
 - ✓ location

Step 2

Once such information is passed on to WBRU, the authorised Government-contracted veterinarian, ALE / RIU and BirdLife Malta are alerted.



Step 3

- ▣ Stay with the bird until rescue arrives!

The following information is also provided in Step 3...

- ▣ BirdLife Malta's "Found a bird?" link
<http://birdlifemalta.org/advice/found-bird/>
- ▣ Catching an injured bird may be difficult
- ▣ Careless handling may cause further injury
- ▣ Injured birds should not be handled if there is no imminent danger to the bird itself, to humans or property

Step 3 - Handling

- ❑ Handling must be firm but gentle.
- ❑ **Small birds** up to Starling size can be held in one hand.
- ❑ **Medium-sized birds** are best held with two hands, one over each wing.
- ❑ Handling **large birds** requires great care because of risk of injury to the handler. Unless a person is used to handling large birds, it is best to wait until help arrives.



Step 4

- Upon being notified of the bird's location, authorised personnel (ALE/RIU/WBRU/BLM) will retrieve the bird and arrange for necessary treatment by Government-appointed and authorised Veterinarian.
- The necessary treatment or rehabilitation will be prescribed and followed accordingly at the facilities authorised for this purpose by the Director of Veterinary Services.

Step 4

- Decisions concerning the necessary course of action (treatment and rehabilitation / euthanasia) will be made solely by the Government-authorised Veterinarian.
- Members of the public are able to enquire regarding the outcome of the referral of the bird by contacting WBRU via email on wildbirds@gov.mt

Thank you!