

Wild Care Program

Objectives: Introduce the concept of wildlife rehabilitation; provide opportunity for hands-on exploration of tools and techniques; develop empathy for wildlife through imaginative play

Materials Needed: Plush animals, 2 syringes, 2 rubber nipples, 1 cannula, 2 mascara wands, 6 diet cards, 1 soap bottle, 1 honey bottle, 1 formula bottle, 4 food dishes, 4 pair nitrile gloves, 2 gauze bandages, 1 roll masking tape, cotton swabs, 4 towels/dishcloths.

Set the Stage

Imagine that you are wildlife rehabilitators. Choose a stuffed animal “patient” and then imagine why this animal needs help – is the animal orphaned? Injured? What happened to it?

Activity

Use the tools to care for your patient.

- Food/dishes – what does the animal eat? Find the right diet and put it in a dish
- Syringe – used to give medicine or formula
- Nipples/canula – attached to a syringe and used to feed baby mammals formula, the canula is used for tube feeding very young babies
- Mascara wands – used to clean and groom animals
- Soap – used to keep animals and tools clean
- Honey – applied to wounds, especially turtle shell injuries, to keep them clean and free from infection
- Bandages/masking tape – keeps cuts covered and broken bones stable. Tape and other materials like dental floss, glue, and plaster are used on broken turtle shells
- Cotton swabs – always handy for grooming and cleaning wounds
- Nitrile gloves – safety first! Rehabbers wear gloves to prevent the spread of germs
- Towels – used to wrap up animals for exams/handling and as bedding, baby animals need to be kept warm and dry

Think about it

Once your animal patient has received care, ask yourself:

- When will this animal be able to return to the wild?
- Where should this animal be released?
- What do you think it will do when it is released?
- How can we make the world safer for animals?

Questions, Feedback:

Tashi Brewster, tashi@wandsforwildlife.org, 828-551-0247

