



Dear Veterinary Clinic,

We can assist you by providing care for orphaned and injured wild native passerines. The Songbird Hospital is a wildlife rehabilitation facility located in Sebastopol. We specialize in the rehabilitation and healthy release of native passerines. We are an official program of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, a state and federally licensed wildlife rehabilitation center located in Petaluma.

Members of the public who bring an injured or orphaned native wild bird to your office may be referred to us so that we can help bring the animal into care as soon as possible. If you receive calls about wildlife, please feel free to refer the callers directly to us. We can help them assess the situation and determine the appropriate course of action for the bird. We are an all-volunteer organization and our services are free of charge, but donations are sincerely appreciated.

If you have admitted an orphaned, injured or ill native wild bird to your clinic, the following protocol is recommended while waiting for a volunteer from The Songbird Hospital to arrive:

- Contact with humans and domestic animals is extremely stressful for wildlife. Please help minimize stress by keeping wildlife in a dark quiet area, away from people and other animals.
- Examine the bird quickly for life threatening injuries, bleeding, etc. Administer emergency care/euthanasia if needed.
- Place the bird in a container (box or pet carrier) appropriate for its size, lined with a soft ravel-free cloth. Place half of the container on a heating pad set on low. Alternatively, you can also place the bird in an incubator set at 90 degrees F. Be sure to cover the unit to minimize stress.
- Passerines have very specialized diets. Wildlife rehabilitators use species specific hand-feeding formulas for baby birds, so it is best to avoid feeding the animal any food or formula. Extremely dehydrated birds may be given replacement electrolyte fluids as needed.

If a Good Samaritan brings a wild bird to your clinic, please be sure to collect the following information: their contact information, where and when the animal was found, and what happened to it. The California Department of Fish and Game requires us to collect this information for any wild native animal presented to us for care. It is also helpful to know if the finder has fed the animal anything, or administered any kind of medication/medical treatment.

The Songbird Hospital is open 7 days a week and can be reached at (707) 484-6502. We provide rehabilitative care to native passerines for release back to the wild. Our parent organization, Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue, can assist with birds of prey, waterfowl and native mammals. Please call SCWR at (707) 526-9453, if you require assistance with wildlife other than passerines.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you very much for helping us care for the native passerines of Sonoma County. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Veronica Bowers, Director
The Songbird Hospital of Sonoma County Wildlife Rescue