



POSOW

Preparedness for Oil-polluted

Shoreline cleanup and

Oiled Wildlife interventions

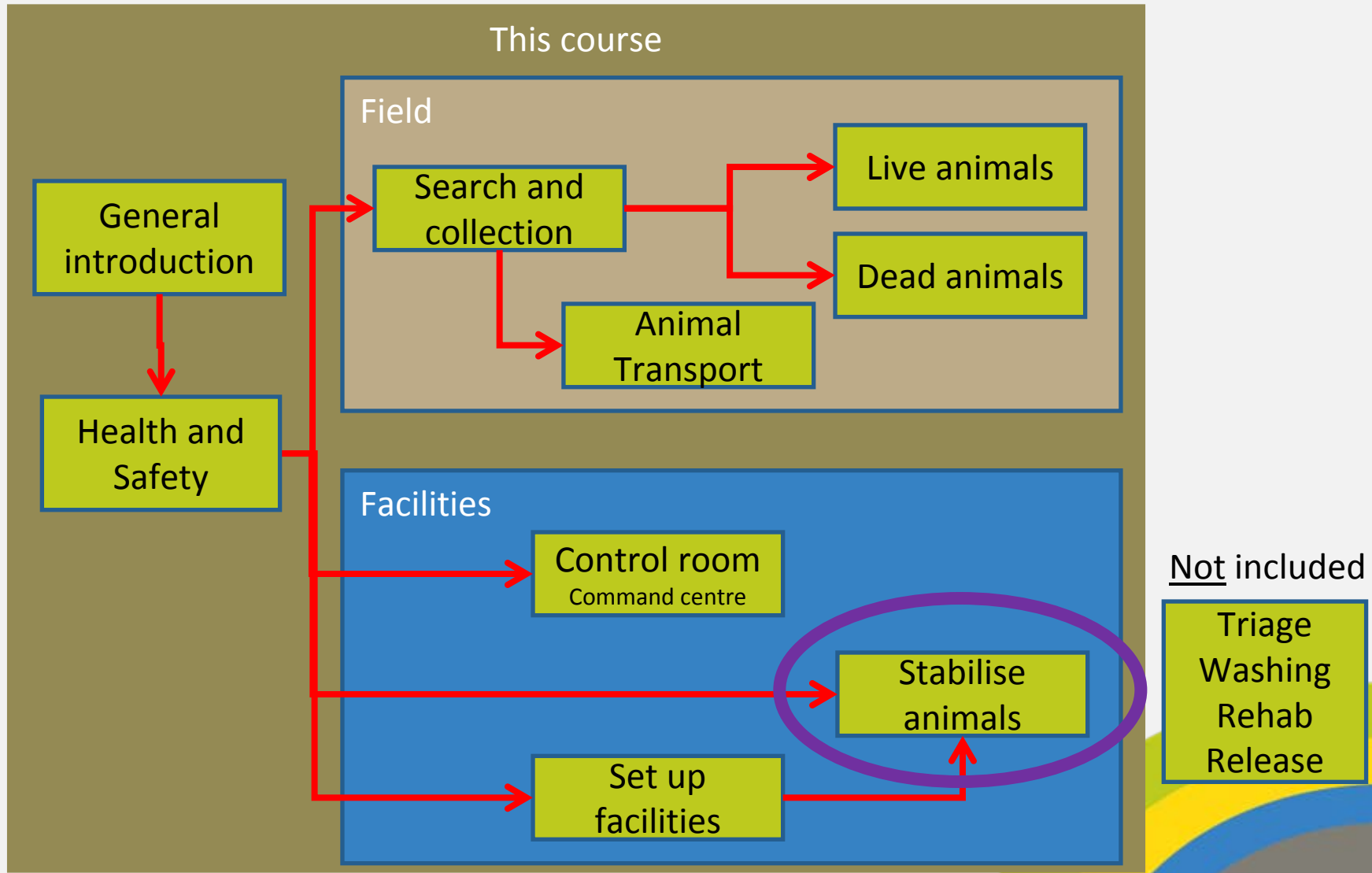
# Operations in a

# Forward Holding Centre(FHC)

- Understanding the Forward Holding Centre
- Volunteer operations in a FHC
  - Reception
  - Pre-wash care
    - Stabilisation
    - Care of stabilised animals
- Understanding the role of experts



# Overview of the wildlife course



# Understanding the FHC



- Is a facility where oiled birds can be kept alive for a number of days
- Can be set up quickly if needed
  - Within 12-36 hours
- A bird that is captured today is only ready to be washed after 3 to 7 days
  - That is enough time to set up a WRC
- A FHC is therefore a useful concept to save time

# Organise your volunteer group



- Keep safe – use your PPE
- Keep healthy – take breaks, eat and drink sensibly
- Divide tasks (days/week)
- Coordinate (control room)



# Role of volunteers



- Volunteers can run a successful FHC for birds successful on their own
- Trained experts are needed for several specific tasks
  - triage, washing...
  - They may take a few days to arrive and assist



# Operations by volunteers



- As when the animals will arrive at the reception area
  - Collect and ensure accuracy of data
  - Identify most urgent cases
- Stabilise each animal during 48 hours
  - Provide rehydration, food, rest...
  - Maintain a good hygiene
- Dead animals
  - Into the freezer

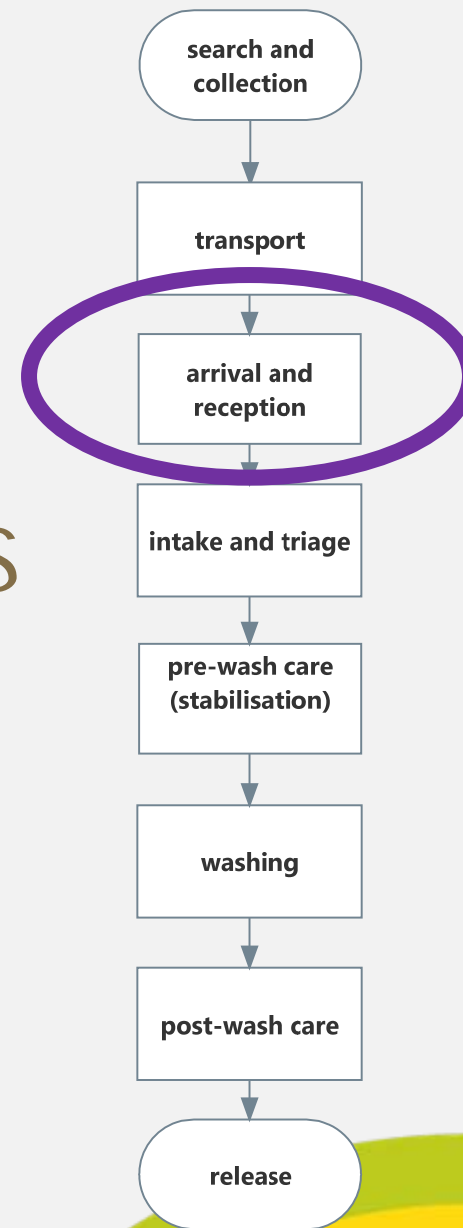




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## Arrival and reception of birds



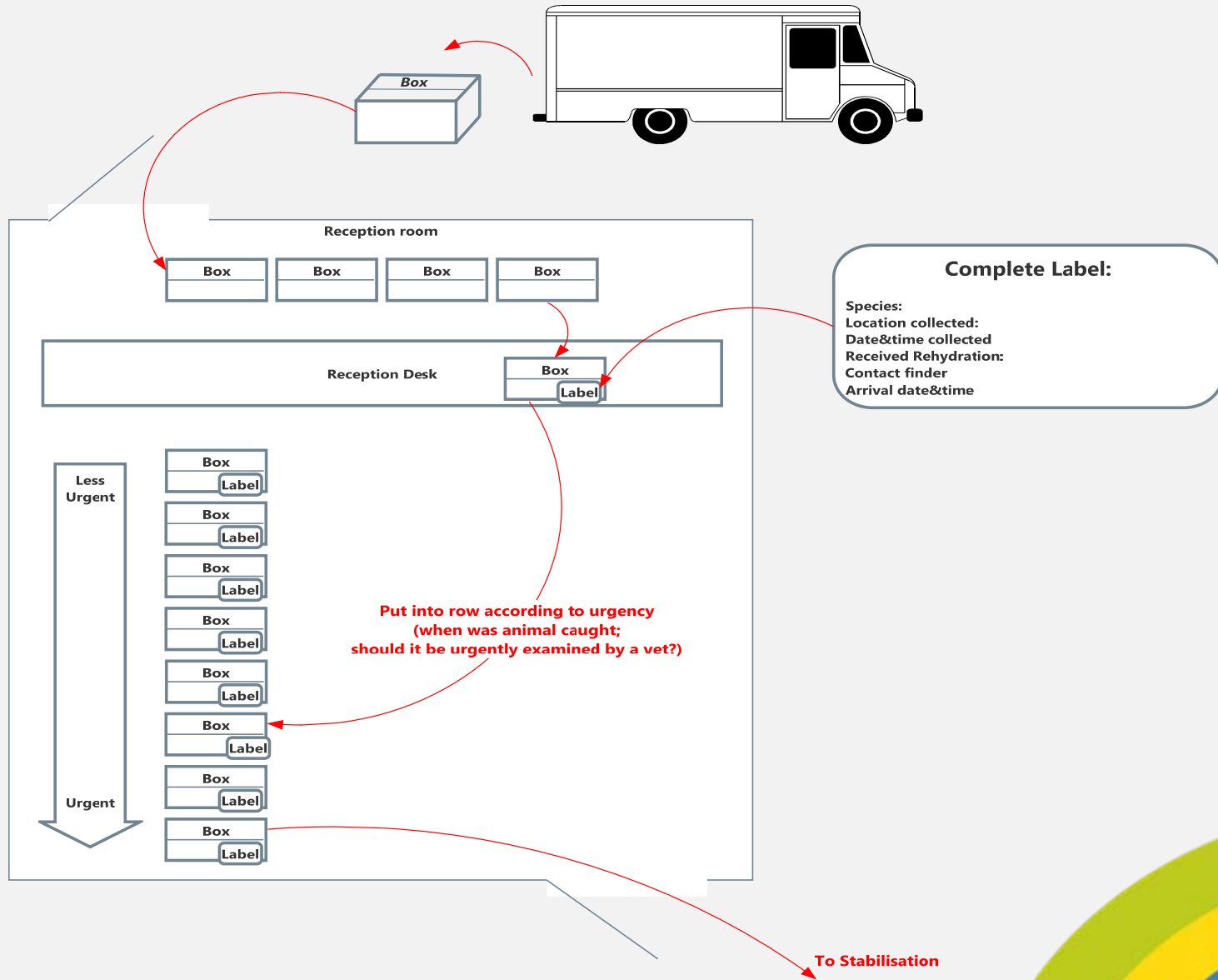
# Prepare for the arrival of birds



- Prior notification should have enabled you to prepare for the animals' arrival
- Ensure areas are cleared and ready
- Medical record forms are available
- Sufficient personnel are on hand to undertake the administration
- Animals will arrive from the beaches in boxes
  - Sufficient space to be available



# When animals arrive



# When animals arrive

## Alive

### Species 1

||||/    |||/

### Species 2

||||/ ||

### Species 3

||||/    |||/    |

### Unknown

|||

## Dead

||||/    |||/    |

- Write down how many animals have arrived
  - On paper on wall (don't lose it)
  - On a whiteboard
- Administrative organisation is essential
  - Make sure each box is labelled
  - Report total counts to control room every evening
  - Accurate info is needed for managing the centre
- Dead birds go into the freezer
  - labels

# Reception is...



... very busy and  
hectic or...

... very quiet.





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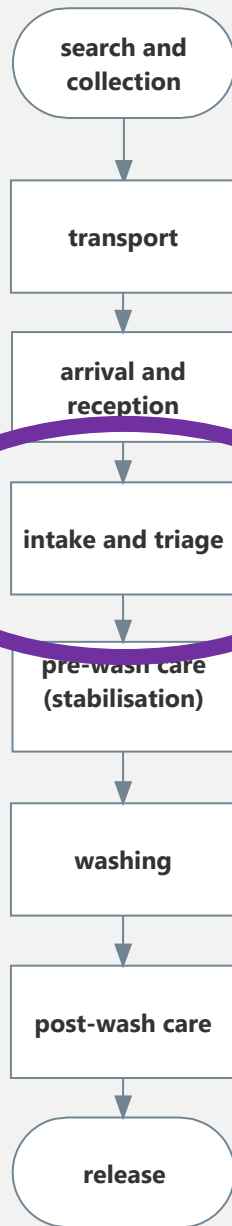
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## After reception, pre-wash care:

- Triage
- Stabilisation
- Care for stabilised birds





# Triage

- Some animals arrive very debilitated
- They may not survive the treatment
- They may best be euthanized
- Euthanasia is done by volunteers
- An experienced veterinarian is empowered to euthanize as necessary

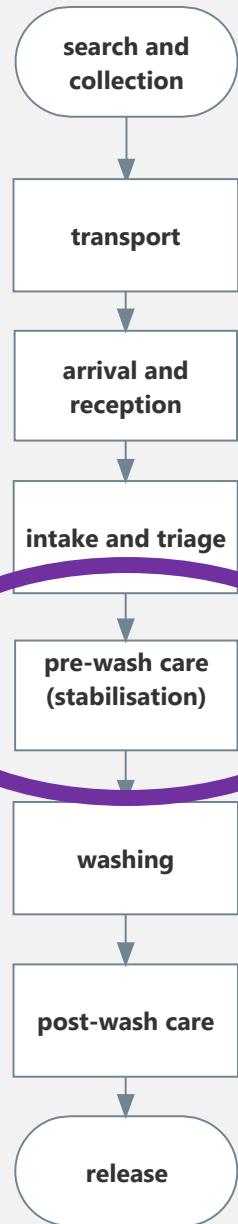


# What do oiled birds need?



- The birds will be suffering from:
  - Dehydration
  - Hypothermia (or hyperthermia)
  - Starvation
  - Stress
- They need care:
  - to stop further deterioration and prepare them for transport or washing
  - This is called “Stabilisation”

# Key elements of stabilisation



## Housing

- Stop hypothermia
  - Provide a warm, stable environment
- Reduce stress
  - Provision of a quiet environment and careful handling

## Treatment

- Feeding
  - Provision of quality food appropriate for the species
- Rehydrating
  - Provision of extra fluids for 48 hours





# Housing

- Net bottoms for small birds
  - 4-6 animals in one cage
    - Possible for some species only
  - 1 animal per cage
    - Aggressive species
- Solid floor pens for large birds
- Keep clean (once a day)





# Housing



- Heat lamps are useful to treat hypothermia
- Leave animals alone between treatments
  - The longer undisturbed the better
  - Less stress
- Quick and efficient treatments
  - Short stress



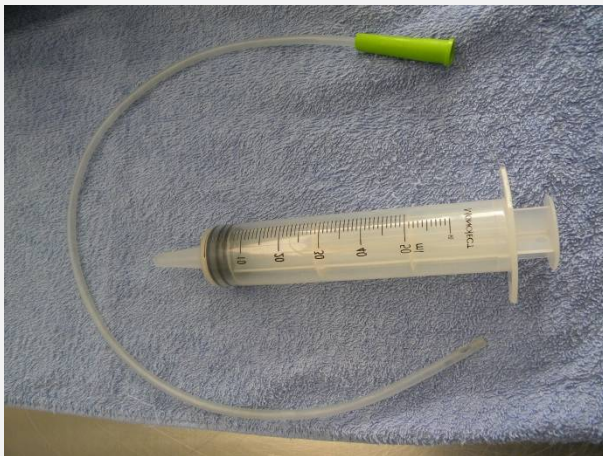
# Treatment: Rehydration



## Preparation

### Fluid

- Each bird needs 50ml/kg body weight
- Assess body weights or weigh bird
- Assess volumes needed for all birds



### Equipment

- Syringes
  - 50-60ml with catheter tip
- Tubes
- Buckets
- Towels



# Treatment: Rehydration



- Provide the bird fluids at or near animals body temperature
  - Water with rehydration salts
- Provide directly into the stomach
- 3 times each day
  - Early morning, midday and late afternoon
- Work in pairs
  - One holding the bird
  - One providing the fluids

# Rehydration - 1



- Keep safe = PPE
- Ensure all the correct equipment is ready before you start



# Rehydration - 2



Reduce stress on the animal  
until you are ready



Uncover the head



## Rehydration - 3



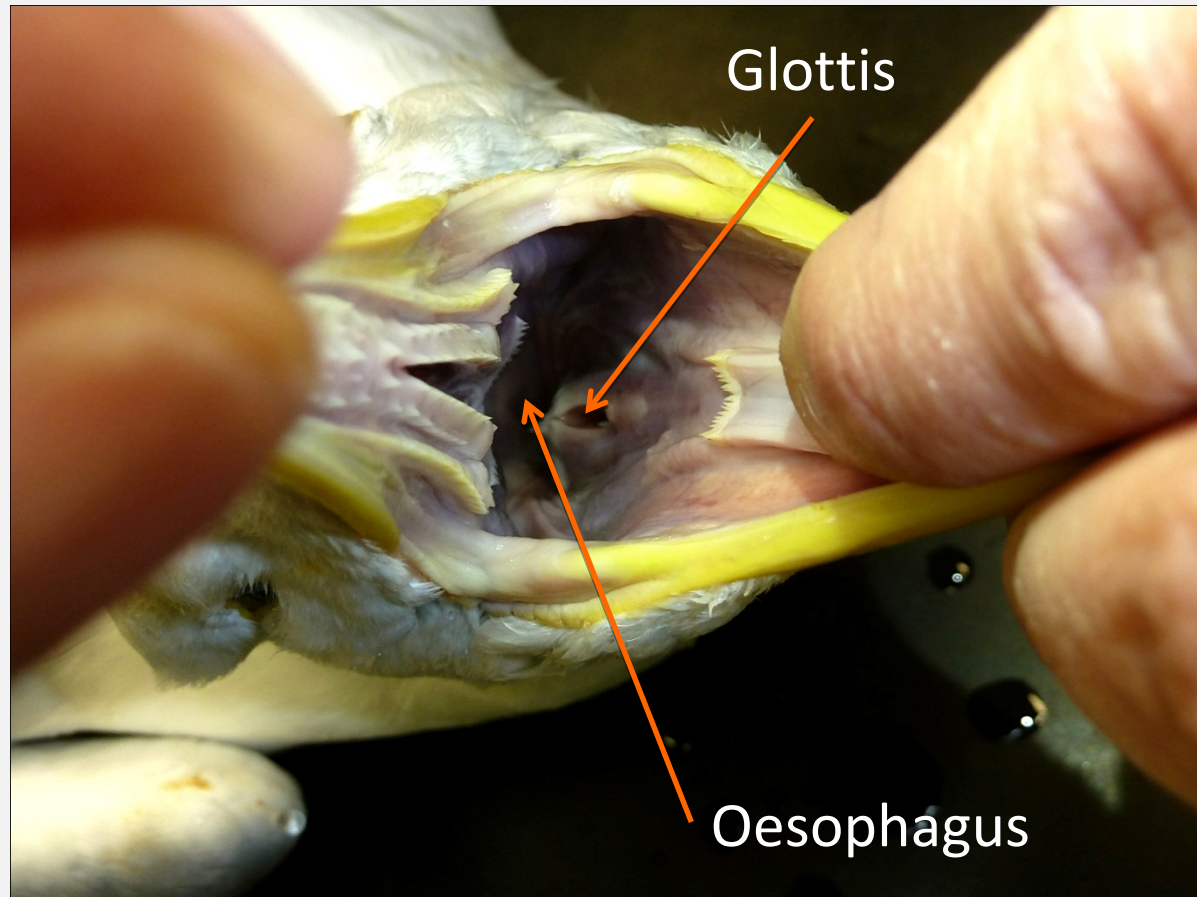
Open the beak



Insert the tube into the  
oesophagus and then down  
into the stomach

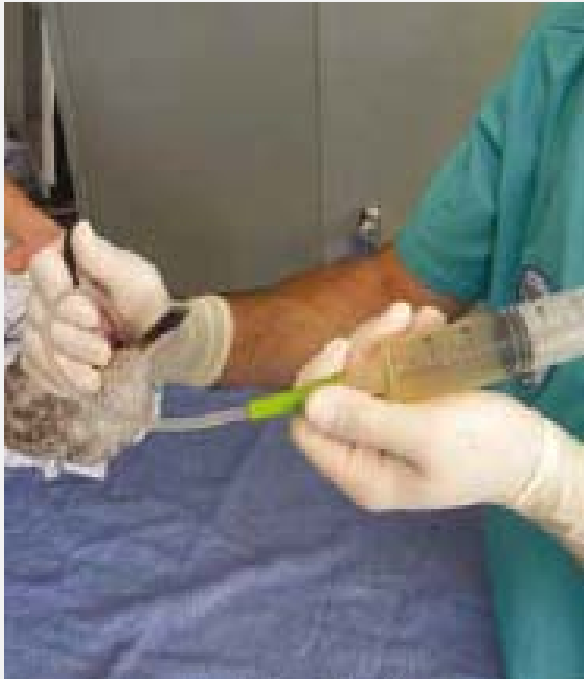


# Rehydration - 4



Gently put the tube into the oesophagus and push it all the way into the stomach  
Ensure that the tube is in the oesophagus and NOT in the glottis

# Rehydration - 5



Push 50ml/kg into the stomach



Fold the tube and slowly remove it





# Rehydration - 6



Lower the head to release  
excess fluids

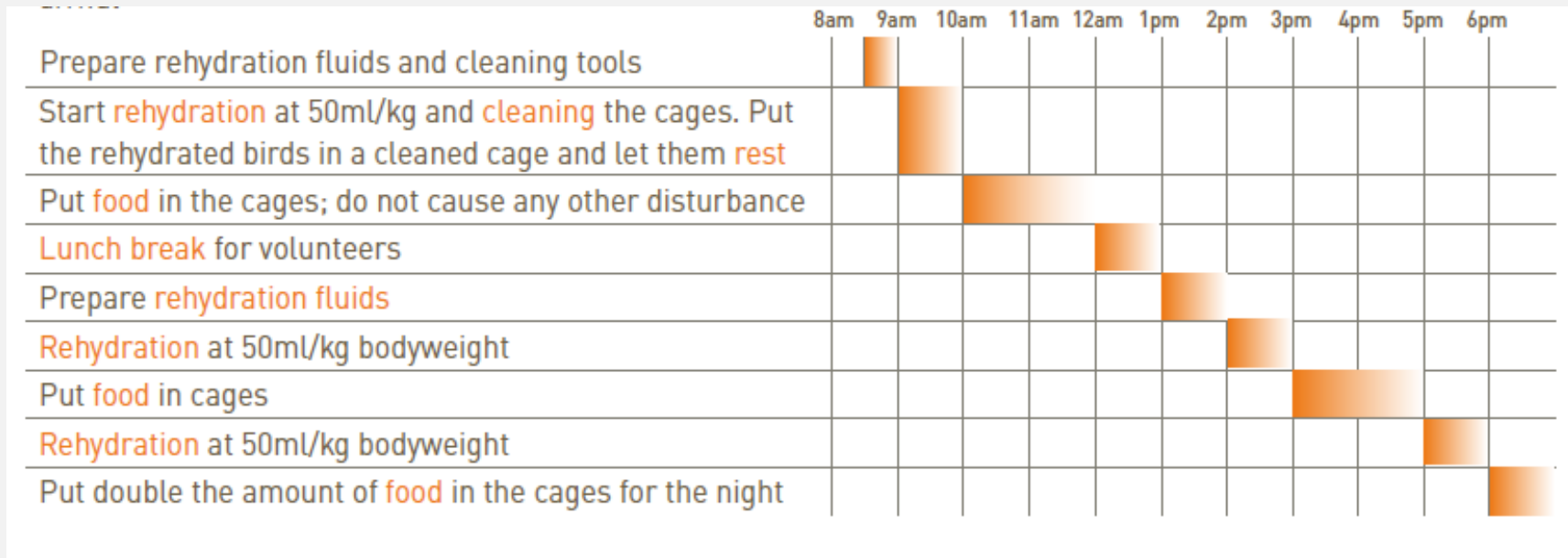


Cover the bird's head and  
place it back into the cage



# Treatment: Rehydration

- Useful schedule



# End of stabilisation



- A bird is considered stabilised after 48 h of treatment as described
- It can now be transported to another facility (long trip) if needed
- Or it can stay, and receive further treatment until ready to be washed

# Treatment: Feeding



- Offer the food most suitable for each species
  - Ask specialists for diets
- Food must be of good quality and in plentiful supply
  - offer fish in shallow bowls with a covering of fresh water

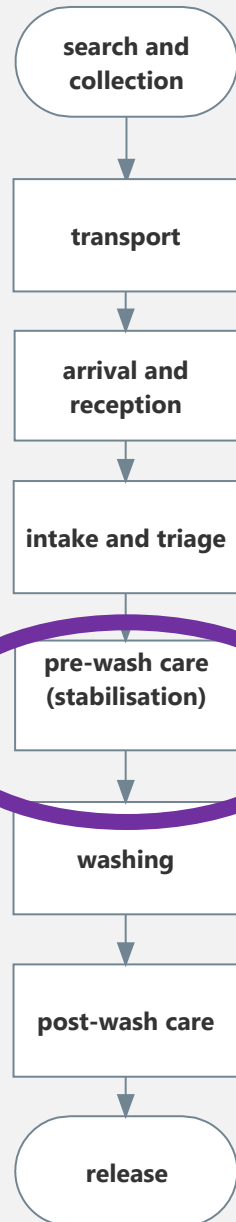


# Treatment - Feeding



- Birds may begin to feed while receiving rehydration
- Good quality food is required for recovery
- Food is always provided *ad libitum*
- Refresh food twice a day
- Allow the birds plenty of rest

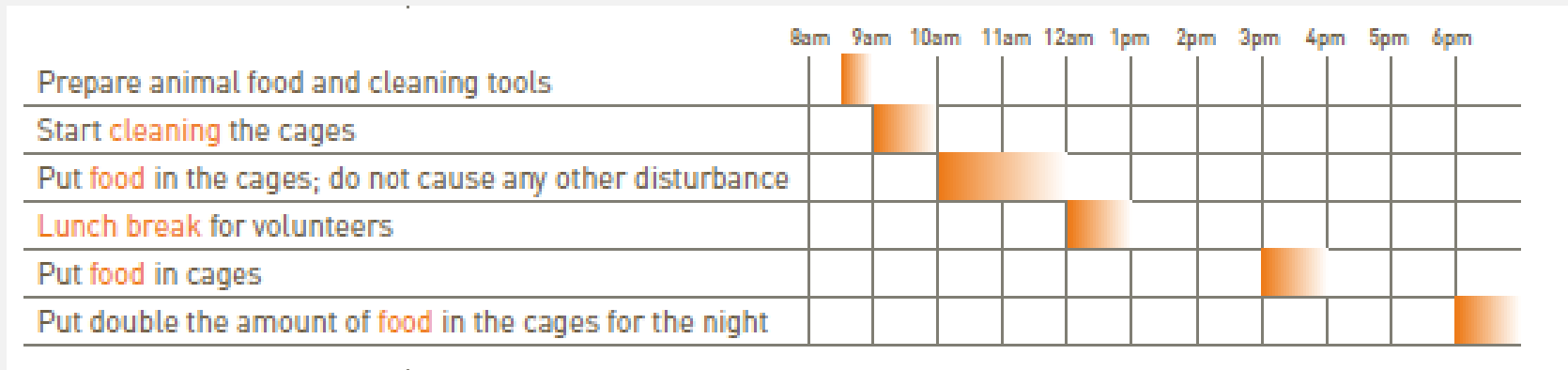
# Caring for stabilised birds



- The condition of stabilised birds is:
  - Is much better than when they arrived from the beach
  - May not be good enough to be washed
- Rehydration treatment is no longer needed
  - Good: no handling, no stress
- The animals will feed on their own
- They now need
  - Minimal disturbance (leave them alone)
  - Food (ad libitum)
  - Clean cages
- They will gain weight

# Daily routine

- Useful schedule



# When to finish this treatment?

- When bird is ready to be washed
    - That is possible when the following three criteria are met:
1. The Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre is ready
    - Wash room is ready
    - Pools have been set up
  2. Experts have arrived to wash
  3. Experts consider the bird ready to be washed







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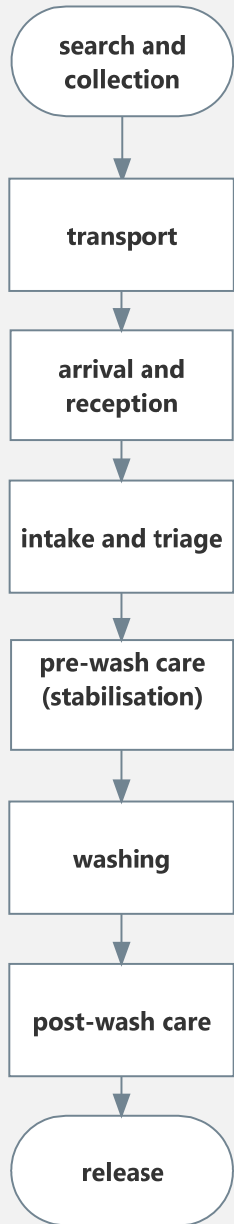
Oiled Wildlife interventions

## Understanding role of experts Experienced oiled wildlife rehabilitators

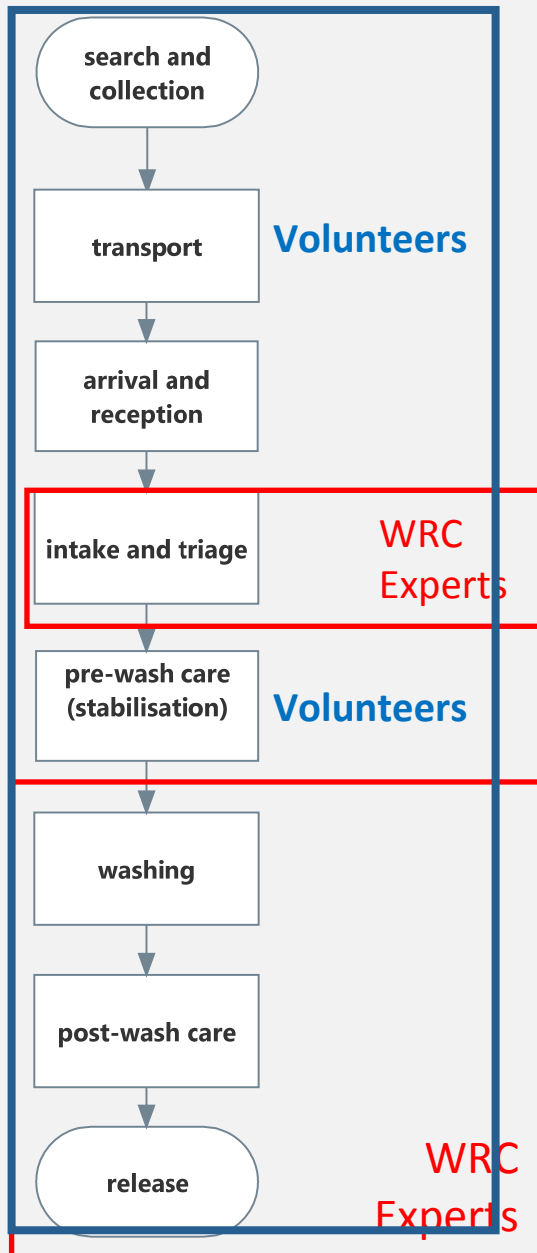


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# Role of experts



- The manual describes all stages from Search and Collection to Release
- To be successful, experts bring some essential skills learned over a long period
  - Intake and triage
  - Washing
  - Managing birds on pools
  - Preparing the release
  - Oversee and manage all operations
- To find solutions in case something does not work



# Role of experts

- Experts needed to set up a Wildlife Response Centre
  - (this includes all operations of a Forward Holding Centre)
  - Perhaps the FHC can be extended (if all requirements are met)
- Experts assist control room
- Volunteers can work under their direction
  - Training on the work floor
  - Develop expert skills

# Experts help complete the successful rehabilitation But volunteers are indispensable

Wildlife Response Centre  
(Experts + volunteers)

FHC  
(Volunteers)



Thank you very much!

Questions?

Des questions?

ερωτήσεις?

Otázky?

Domande?

Preguntas?

Mistoqsijiet?

Vprašanja?





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REMPEC: Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea

REMPEC

Maritime House, Lascaris Wharf

Valetta, VLT 1921, Malta

Tel: +356 21 337 296/7/8

Fax: +356 21 339 951

Email : [rempec@rempec.org](mailto:rempec@rempec.org)

Editor: F. HEBERT

