

# Animal Transport

When transporting wildlife your top priority should always be the animal's welfare and one of the most important things you can do is reduce stress. Here are some tips:

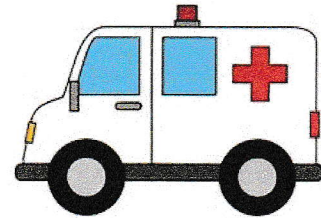
## Warm, Dark & Quiet

All wild animals get stressed when being handled by humans as they have no understanding that we are trying to help them and not trying to eat them. The best way to reduce stress is to provide them an enclosure that is warm, dark & quiet.

- Turn the heat on or use a warming pad under the transport box if possible
- Cover the enclosure with a towel so no light gets through
- Turn off any radio or music and keep talking to a minimum and talk quietly if necessary

## Drive like an Ambulance

- Accelerate slowly
- Don't swerve abruptly
- Brake early and slowly
- Keep the windows rolled up
- Reduce Speed when the road is winding or you are approaching turns



## Comfort

Remember that **your patient has no seatbelt**, so layer the bottom of their transport box with a towel or blanket so they don't slide around while en route to your destination. Do not bring your dog - Your patient will know by sound & smell that there is a "predator" in the car with them.

**No Peeking!** Once the animal is placed in their transport box do not peek or open their box to take pictures - This will cause the animal to spike their stress level again so don't give in to the temptation. If you are given an animal in a handoff-transport situation you may peek once to see if they are alive and in need of any intervention, but only once and by one person - Do not allow friends to gawk at them.

**Never offer food or water to any rescued animal** until a wildlife-certified veterinarian approves it – Let the vet make that decision as it may complicate their treatment.



## Birds

Birds have hollow wings which are very fragile – Their wings can get stuck in openings or grating of dog carriers – Use a cardboard box if you don't have a bird transport box.