



**Humane
World for
Animals™**

Formerly called the Humane
Society of the United States



Essential equipment for responding to wildlife calls

Preparing a wildlife response kit will help you respond to a variety of calls about wildlife, including calls related to animals who are sick, injured, orphaned, ensnared, confined or in a place they shouldn't be.

Common (and often free) items such as recycled boxes, bath towels, banana boxes and bedsheets can be used to transport animals, increase their comfort and reduce their stress during capture and transport. Whatever form your kit takes, make sure to include an inventory log that tracks supply quantities, date of last inspection and date of replenishment.

Precautions and equipment safety

While many of the repurposed items listed above may work in a pinch, we always recommend quality professional gear when available and as your resources allow. Core equipment such as nets, crates and bite gloves play a crucial role in safely capturing and containing animals, sometimes in high-stress or dangerous situations.

It's important for animal care and control officers and other field responders to use high-quality, well-maintained equipment to ensure their safety, the welfare of the animal and the success of the operation. Using substandard or poorly maintained tools increases the risk of equipment failure, which could lead to dangerous outcomes. For example, a net that tears easily or a crate that fails to lock can result in an escaped animal or injury to the officer, the animal or bystanders.

Equipment tips

- Choose a net with a smaller weave for smaller animals and birds.
- Materials can be stored in plastic airline pet crates or cardboard boxes that will also serve as a critical part of your rescue and response gear.
- Choose fabric material that doesn't have loops that will entangle toes, claws, feathers or beaks.



Improvise in nature

If you need a different Y-pole size for the species in need, you can find a Y-pole in nature. Wildlife response expert Dave Pauli recommends cutting off tree branches that have a natural Y of different sizes. This way, he says, "you can have several Y-pole options that work on everything from snakes to prairie dogs to deer."

While the materials may vary by the species you encounter depending on your local climate and current weather, some essentials for a wildlife response kit include:

Tools and capture equipment

- Pre-ventilated cardboard boxes (such as banana boxes)
- Net, such as a throw net or handled net (choose nets with a smaller weave for smaller animals and birds)
- Y-pole (e.g., a commercial canine model, Y-shaped fishing rod holder or even a fresh-cut branch)
- Tongs (e.g., snake tongs and/or cat tongs for small animals)
- Multi-tool with Phillips and slotted screwdriver heads and a serrated knife blade
- Headlamp with both white and green or red lenses, which can be used to reduce animals' stress
- Spotlight for locating wildlife eyes from a vehicle or when searching a dark space
- Zip ties of all sizes
- Bungee cords
- Duct tape
- 50-foot garden hose and a varying stream hose nozzle (e.g., for gentle herding, hazing or temperature regulation)
- 100-foot nylon rope

Wildlife care basics

- Vet wrap
- Nonwoven towels (microfiber/surgical)
- Sheets
- Stress/worry toy

Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Collapsible bite stick (or clipboard can substitute as a quick alternative)
- Safety glasses or safety face shield (to protect against herons and raptors)
- Respirator or N95 masks (for attics or crawl spaces)
- Umbrella (to protect against turkeys, geese, swans, etc.)
- Bite-proof/leather gloves
- Nitrile gloves
- Snake chaps
- Water waders
- Whistle
- Air horn
- Bear spray



What's a worry toy?

Any safe, indestructible, movable item that the animals can't swallow but can bite to redirect their stress. A worry toy can prevent captured animals from damaging their paws and teeth. Items such as Kongs, cat toys, apples, carrots and half-full water bottles can provide a safe outlet for wildlife in a trap or crate.



For more information, visit humanepro.org/humanehandling.