

# How to Safely Contain an Injured Raptor



1. Our first priority is your safety! The primary means of defense for most raptors are the sharp, powerful talons on their feet. Many raptors will also bite in defense as well. Remember that even a sick or injured raptor will give everything it's got to defend itself. They don't understand we are there to help.
2. Gather your equipment. We suggest the following:
  - Personal protective gear
    1. Heavy leather gloves
    2. Safety glasses
    3. Heavy long-sleeved shirt or jacket
  - A secure transport container large enough to easily fit the bird. A large cardboard box is ideal.
    1. Line the container with a layer of ravel-free non-slip material.
    2. Be sure there are adequate ventilation holes in the container.
    3. Avoid wire cages as these can cause damage to the bird's feathers.
  - A flat lid, piece of cardboard or plywood that will completely cover the opening of the container.
  - A blanket or towel large enough to completely cover the bird (Method 3).
  - Duct tape, bungee cord, twine or other method to secure the lid onto the container.
3. Put on your personal protective equipment. Take note of the location you have found the bird – this information will be helpful at the time of release.



Method 1 - RECOMMENDED	Method 2	Method 3
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Slowly approach the animal with the transport container. Place the transport container over the top of the animal.</li> <li>2. Use the flat piece of cardboard (or other lid material) to slowly and carefully slide under the container and the bird.</li> <li>3. Secure the cover to the container using duct tape, a bungee cord or tie with twine or rope.</li> <li>4. Gently and slowly turn the container upright.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tip the transport container on its side next to the animal.</li> <li>2. Use a broom to gently push the animal into the container, or use a shovel to gently pick up the animal and place it into the transport container.</li> <li>3. Cover the container, secure the lid, and then slowly tip the container upright.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Slowly approach the bird from behind with your towel or blanket held out in front of you. When you are near enough to the bird, place the towel or blanket over the top of the bird to completely cover it.</li> <li>2. Be sure you are aware of the position of the bird's body. You want to know the location of the feet and be able to keep them pointed away from your body at all times. Reach in over the bird's back, and gently fold the wings into its body with your gloved hands over the outside of the blanket or towel.</li> <li>3. Gently pick up the bird and place it into the transport container. You can leave the towel or blanket in the box with the bird.</li> </ol>

4. Place the container in a quiet, dark environment until transport. If the container does not have solid sides, cover the entire container with lightweight sheet or blanket to restrict the visual stimuli for the bird.
5. Do not feed the bird. Most injured raptors are dehydrated, and often emaciated, and feeding them before stabilizing them can result in their death.

6. If you don't already have an appointment, please call Dane County Humane Society's Wildlife Center right away at 608-287-3235. The law allows a member of the public 24 hours to transport the bird to a licensed wildlife rehabilitator, but the sooner the bird receives care, the better its chances of successful treatment.
7. During transport to the wildlife center, please keep the car quiet by leaving the radio off and keeping voices low. For more information about safely transporting wildlife once contained, please click [HERE](#).