


# Wildlife Rehab Practical Skills: Gavage

<b>Indications:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For animals unable or unwilling to self-feed.</li> <li>• To provide calculated, specific fluids or liquid nutrition to: dehydrated, emaciated or otherwise debilitated animals.</li> </ul>
<b>Contraindications:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use with extreme caution in mammals.</li> <li>• Do NOT attempt to gavage an animal that is: unconscious or unable to hold its head in a normal upright position or that does not have a functioning gastrointestinal system.</li> </ul>
<b>Materials:</b>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gavage Tube (rubber catheter, enteral feeding tube or needle)</li> <li>Syringe</li> <li>Cloth Tape</li> <li>Water Based Lubricant</li> <li>Tubing Solution</li> </ul>

**Before You Start:** Calculate the gavage volume. Measure out the solution in an appropriately sized syringe. Select the appropriately sized gavage tube. The tube should be a larger diameter than the glottis or trachea.

## Directions:

1. Warm the gavage solution to the approximate temperature of the animal.
2. Externally measure the length of tube needed to reach the stomach or crop.
3. Mark the tube length with a small piece of tape.
4. Lubricate the end of the tube with a water based lubricant.
5. Charge the tube with the gavage solution to prevent injecting air.
6. Extend the animal's head upward and, in a bird, identify the glottis.
7. Insert tube past the glottis or trachea to the premeasured tape mark.
8. Slowly dispense the gavage solution. Watch the back of the mouth for any fluid. Stop immediately if any fluid appears.
9. Pinch the tube & withdraw. Slowly let the head come back to a normal position.

