


Wildlife Rehab Practical Skills: Subcutaneous Fluids

Indications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For animals unable or unwilling to self-feed or for animals unable to stand or hold their head in a normal upright position. • To provide calculated, specific fluids to: dehydrated, emaciated or otherwise debilitated animals.
Contraindications:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This technique requires knowledge of sterile procedure. • Do NOT attempt to give SQ fluids without proper training.
Materials:	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile Isotonic Crystalloid Fluid (0.9% Saline, LRS, Normasol) • Sterile Syringe • Sterile Needle • Alcohol Prep Pad or Spray Bottle • Sharps Container

Before You Start: Calculate the fluid volume. Using sterile technique, draw out the fluids into an appropriately sized sterile syringe. Select the appropriately sized sterile needle.

Directions:

1. Maintaining sterility, warm the fluids to the approximate temperature of the animal.
2. Locate injection site. Vest on a mammal or inguinal area on a bird (See 2a and 2b).
3. Wet the fur or feathers with alcohol to visualize the injection site.
4. Make sure the needle is bevel side up.
5. Angle the syringe so that it is parallel to the skin.
6. Insert needle under the skin and pull back on the plunger to insure there is no blood flash.
7. Watch for a fluid blister to appear immediately under the skin as the fluids are slowly injected.
8. Feel the fluid blister. The blister should feel soft. If the skin becomes very taut, move to a new site to administer remaining fluid. Dispose of all used needles in the sharps container.

