



Save Our Seabirds

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Luck be a “Lady”



Lady came to Save Our Seabirds (SOS) 2 years ago. I received a call from my friend and excellent rescuer Lynn Zablo. She had a sand-hill crane that someone left for dead on a golf course.

The Incident:

Golfers who had witnessed another golfer beating a Sandhill Crane with a golf club immediately reported the attack to the Pro Shop Manager. They all raced back to the bird to see if it could be saved.

The Rescue:

SOS volunteer Lynn Zablo was contacted by an employee of the golf course and responded immediately. After gently wrapping the bird she brought it to the SOS location in Wimauma.

The Treatment:

The bird was unconscious and badly beaten. We recognized her as being female, worked on her, stabilized her and made arrangements to bring her to a local veterinarian in order to see if there was irreparable damage to her skull. As it turned out, x-rays showed the bone under the eye was fractured.

Lady remained unconscious for 2 days. During this time feeding was done thru a tube while lifting the front of her body in order for digestion to occur. As the days went on we noticed a little progress and by weeks end she was opening her eyes and swallowing on her own. We took turns holding her up and having to hold her head in an upright position. She could not hold her head up on her own so we propped her in a corner, put a pillow on a stool and lay her head on it in order to give her the feeling of standing upright.

We massaged her neck six times a day to loosen the muscle. Two weeks later she started holding her head upright on her own. Now three weeks into the rehabilitation, she was about 75% home free. She had forgotten how to eat and drink, so tube feeding was still a necessity. Through persistence and patience we coaxed her to eat on her own. At first she just played with the food but eventually we were gradually able to discontinue tube feeding as she began eating on her own. We still had to walk her because she wasn't quite steady on her feet, but she was making great progress.



Outcome:

Now, 2 years later, she is a resident at the SOS location in Sarasota, FL. She is also our best surrogate mother and has taken under her wing about 5 baby Sand Hills this past spring alone. She picks up pieces of corn and crane chow to feed the babies in her pen. It is truly heartwarming to watch.