

Abstract

Reusable Preventative Wraps for Captive Pelagic Bird Species Housed Out of Water

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Many pelagic species of birds are prone to secondary pressure ulcers when housed out of water that can prolong the rehabilitation process and/or cause serious medical complications preventing them from being able to survive in the wild making them non-releasable. Historically, a disposable, conforming, manufactured bandage that adheres to itself has been used to add a layer of protection to the areas prone to pressure lesions (feet and legs). This material has also been used to adhere a protective keel wrap, known as a "Donut", that raises the birds keel off of the caging substrate to help prevent and mitigate pressure sores. This wrap can be difficult to apply for staff and volunteers. If not put on properly it can loosen and come off of the bird exposing it to further lesions, and wastes materials. As an answer to these challenges, we have developed a reusable wrap made from natural breathable material that can be quickly applied reducing handling time and stress to the bird, is more effective at securing the keel "Donut" for novice volunteers, and can be washed and reused reducing waste, while saving money. Our poster presents the construction specifications for this wrap, description of its application, and care.

