



GIVING YOUR BIRD AN INTRAMUSCULAR INJECTION

Unfortunately some of the medications we use to treat birds need to be given by an intramuscular injection, if you have found yourself in this position then this guide should provide some helpful hints to make this process easy for you.

Firstly, this is not as scary as you may think – birds often tolerate injections into the muscles quite well, generally much better than they handle oral medications!

Step 1: If your syringes are pre-drawn up then pick a premade syringe and prepare it by moving the plunger down so there is no air left in the syringe (without losing any of the liquid). If you need to draw up the dose then please do so.

Step 2: The best place to give the injection is into the breast (or pectoral muscle) of your bird – you may require a second person to hold the bird for you.

Step 3: Remove the needle cap.

Step 4: Holding the syringe by the BARREL, not the plunger, insert the needle into the breast of the bird (you should not need to go the full length of the needle).

Step 5: Gently draw back on the plunger (very slightly – if there is any blood in the barrel, remove the needle from your bird's skin and start over again).

Step 6: Inject the medication by pressing on the plunger without moving the rest of the syringe or needle, and then remove the needle from your bird's skin. Gently apply a small amount of pressure with your finger to the area where you have given the injection for 10-30 seconds to control the small amount of bleeding that may occur.

Once the above has been completed carefully put the needle and syringe into the sharps container. Unless you are comfortable do not attempt to replace the cap on the needle as you may accidentally prick yourself with the needle.

Things that can go wrong:

- The injection liquid ends up on the feathers rather than under the skin. This happens when you accidentally pull the needle out while injecting. Do not panic! Wipe all of the liquid off your bird's feathers using a damp sponge or tissue. Throw away the syringe and needle and start over again, please call us if this happens and we can make up another dose for you.
- Your bird becomes restless – be decisive when giving the injection. Try not to dither around poking the needle into the bird's skin as that will be painful and quite annoying for your bird. Find the spot and push the needle in without fuss. If you are worried, have someone hold the bird's head and body and also offer the bird something to chew on like a tea towel or a tasty treat.

