

Rescue Practice

Pretend that you found an animal stranded in your living room or somewhere outside. You may not be rescuing a marine animal, but you never know when the CMA's rescue team may need your help! Practice rescuing your own animal at home.

Materials:

- Towel or blanket
- Sheet for a stretcher. You can make your own using duct tape, a tarp, blanket, or sheet and a pool noodle
- Water sprayer or empty bucket, can also pretend
- Stuffed animal of your choice to rescue
- Optional: Toy car to transport your animal to a rehab location
- Optional Be a Veterinarian: Thermometer, stethoscope to check their heart rate, band-aids, etc.

1. Remember never push the animal back to the water or pick them up from land until someone from the rescue team comes. They can be sick or injured.
2. Name the animal that you are about to rescue! Decide where your animal is located, what type of animal you are rescuing, and why your animal needs help.
3. Now ask yourself If your animal needs any special care—like keeping the skin moist. Is there anything special you need to document about the rescue? Is your animal entangled in anything?
4. If your animal needs to be in shade, use your towel to cover it up. Remember to avoid places like the eyes and mouth so your animal can still see and breathe. Do you remember the place you do not want to cover on a dolphin? The blowhole.
5. If your animal lives in water and needs to be wet, pretend to spray them or pretend to pour water over them.
6. Once your animal is comfortable, have your friends, siblings, or an adult help you place your animal onto their stretcher.
7. Once they are in the stretcher, load them onto your rescue vehicle (toy car) or just take them to a different location in your house for rehabilitation.
8. If you want to practice being a veterinarian, pretend to take their temperature, take x-rays, bandage any injuries, and give them medicine.
9. Try Again! Use your imagination and create new rescue scenarios to practice.

To learn more about past rescue stories, check out our rescue blog at <https://www.seewinter.com/animals/rescue-missions/>