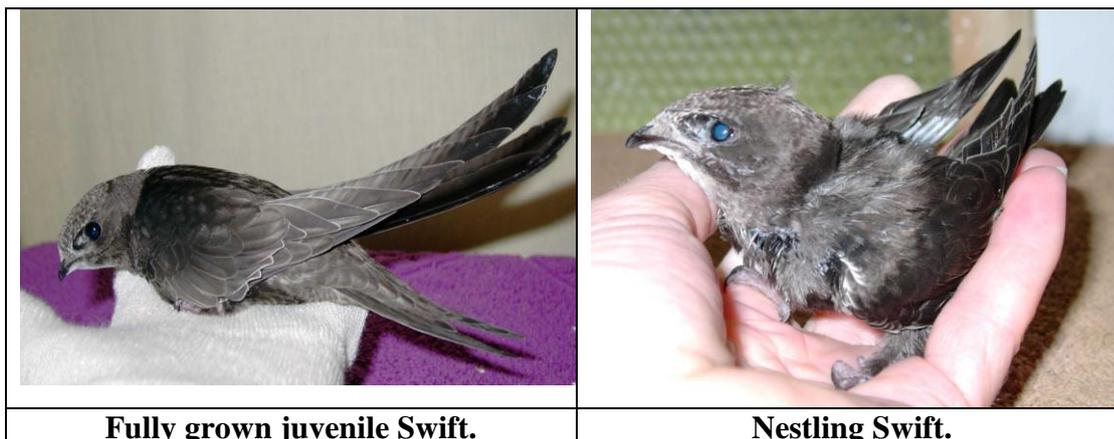


TRIAGE FOR COMMON SWIFTS



85% of Casualties can be saved with the correct care!

1. Place the patient in a warm, safe & calm environment.

Not a wire cage, this can cause feather damage. Ideally a towel lined box or plastic rodent cage with a heated pad protected by a towel or fleece to sit on, 30 degrees centigrade is ideal. Partially cover with a dark towel for privacy.

2. Assess its weight, age & condition.

This is critical information to establish the correct treatment; otherwise the future survival of the patient can be compromised. All this information can be found at www.swift-conservation.org

3. Hydrate.

Ideally a re-hydration fluid such as Lectade, start by offering this from a cotton bud wiped along the side of the mouth. Serious cases of dehydration present with closed and sunken eyes and will require more intensive fluid therapy. **EXTREME** care must be taken when attempting to open the mouth. This is soft and fragile not like a normal beak and should be done from the side by **VERY** gently inserting a clean thumb nail to open and then holding open with the index finger on the roof of the mouth. The inside should be a healthy deep pink, grey is an indication of starvation, white is close to death and unlikely to recover. (Though not impossible)

4. DO NOT - under any circumstance throw into the air!

There exists a terrible myth that a swift cannot take off from the ground, a healthy swift **can** and this is used as one of the tests to check the recovery before release. Any swift found on the ground has a problem and this needs to be determined.

5. DO NOT FEED.

Swifts are quite unlike any other bird in many respects. Attempting to feed an emaciated or dehydrated swift of any age will most likely be fatal.

6. Antibiotics.

Cat attack victims must be given an appropriate antibiotic as soon as possible, deep puncture wounds to the body are often fatal.

ONCE THIS BASIC PROCEDURE HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED SUCH AS VETERINARY HELP FOR INJURED SWIFTS, CONTACT DETAILS OF EXPERIENCED CARERS ETC. ARE ALL AT: - www.swift-conservation.org

The Swifts return to the UK from the end of April to the second week of May, during this period they can be forced down by bad weather and lack of food. A good rest and the correct food for them to regain weight is often all they need