

**BOTULISM CASES: OCTOBER 1)** One male Canada Goose was admitted on 19th October 2019 from Smethwick after being spotted looking unwell. The goose weighed 5.2kg and was in good bodily condition. (Smethwick Hall Park)

The goose was unable to stand or flap his wings. The nictitating membrane (third eyelid) was also unable to function meaning he couldn't blink, resulting in no natural lubrication of the eye and his swallowing reflex was absent. The bird was not overly dehydrated but had foul smelling diarrhoea and ammonia scalding on the tongue. Based upon the clinical findings, Botulism was the most likely cause of illness.

This goose was put onto intravenous fluids (saline) and antibiotics were administered to fight any opportunistic bacteria. Lubricating eye drops were applied four times a day and he was housed in a pen with a heat lamp.

As the bird was unable to eat on his own, essential nutrients were administered through the drip line (parenteral nutrition) for the first three days. The swallowing reflex returned on the fourth day so food was then administered via a feeding tube as he didn't want to eat on his own. The blinking reflex had returned by day four.

By day five, movement to the wings had returned and by day seven the bird was able to stand and started eating for himself. He was moved to a larger outdoor pen for a further week then allowed to integrate with the sanctuary Canada goose population.



2) Two male Canada Geese were admitted on 24th October 2019 from Smethwick. (West Smethwick Park).



The first goose was a male weighing 4.6kg and was in good bodily condition. The goose was unable to stand but was able to flap his wings. He was showing signs of respiratory distress caused by the beginning of paralysis.

The bird was not dehydrated but had ammonia scalding on the tongue. Based upon the clinical findings and history on past patients from the area, Botulism was the most likely cause of illness. This goose was put onto intravenous fluids (saline) and antibiotics were administered to fight any opportunistic bacteria. He was housed in a pen with a heat lamp along with the other goose so he had company.

As the bird was unwilling to eat on his own, essential nutrients were administered through the drip line (parenteral nutrition) for the first two days. The goose was standing up by the fourth day and was eating on his own from day three. Respiratory distress continued for nine days after admission and eventually subsided, He was moved to a larger outdoor pen once he had recovered sufficiently then allowed to integrate with the sanctuary Canada goose population.

3) Two male Canada Geese were admitted on 24th October 2019 from Smethwick (see above). The second goose on this day was a male weighing 5kg and was in good bodily condition. This goose was totally paralysed. He was unable to stand, move his wings or swallow. The nictitating membrane (third eyelid) was also unable to function meaning he couldn't blink, resulting in no natural lubrication of the eye. The bird was dehydrated and

had foul smelling diarrhoea. Based upon the clinical findings, Botulism was the most likely cause of illness.

This goose was affected worse than the other goose and we had not expected him to recover, although we decided it was worth a try. He was put onto intravenous fluids (saline) and antibiotics were administered to fight any opportunistic bacteria. He was housed in a pen with a heat lamp.

As the bird was unable to eat on his own, essential nutrients were administered through the drip line (parenteral nutrition) for the first five days. Lubricating eye drops were applied to the eyes four times a day. On day five the goose was able to move his neck and swallow and was interested in food. On day eight, he was able to now stand and move his wings although he was still weak. The blinking reflex had also returned, although lubricating eye drops were continued for another two days.

By day ten, he was behaving normally. He was eventually moved to a larger outdoor pen once he had recovered and then allowed to integrate with the sanctuary Canada goose population a week later.



**Linjoy Wildlife Sanctuary and Rescue - Midlands**



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All three geese we are treating for botulism are doing well. One is nearly completely recovered (the first one), the second one can now stand up and is eating and the third one, who was the most sick bird, is starting to taking fluids orally, although her eyelids are still paralysed and she can't stand yet.

