

Sea turtles handling and first aid

STRANDED TURTLES:

- Put the turtle in a plastic container, with a soft surface under the plastron (mattress, life buoy, folded towel..);
- During summer use a wet towel to cover the carapace and keep head and eyes wet; keep it in shadow to avoid overheating;
- During winter, use a dry towel to cover it and keep it in a warm place.



- Hold the turtle by its carapace as in the images.

- If the turtle has bloody wounds, use a bandage or a clean towel to cover them and minimize handling.

DO NOT:

- Hold the turtle from FLIPPERS.
- Put the turtle on the CARAPACE.
- Get too close to the MOUTH: pay attention to bites!
- Remove EPIBONTS by hand.



Minimize stress!

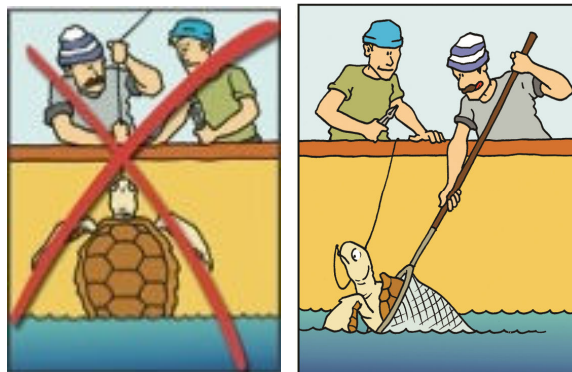
- put a wet towel on the head in order to cover the eyes; leave nares free.
- keep people away from the animal, avoid excessive noise.

SEA TURTLES ADRIFT:

- Use a dip-net to board the turtle.

DO NOT:

- Bring the turtle in by pulling the line



- If the turtle has been hooked:
 - ✓ cut the line as close as possible to the mouth;
 - ✓ take it to the Rescue Center.

DO NOT:

- Try to pull out the hook
- Pull the line from the mouth or from the cloaca

- If the turtle has been caught during fishing operations and it looks comatose or dead:
 - ✓ put it in a slope position (lift hindquarters of about 20-30 cm) until it get active again (at least 4 hours);
 - ✓ take it to the Rescue Center.



DO NOT:

- Put the turtle in the water if it still looks comatose