



Above: "Sarah" as she arrived to us, barely able to move from being covered in Tanglefoot Bird Repellent. Below: Sarah as she appears today.

Glue traps and sticky repellants of any kind do great harm to wildlife. Tanglefoot in particular is an insidious product which causes great suffering, incapacitating wildlife, and necessitates immediate first aid intervention. Animals get the Tanglefoot onto their beaks and in their mouths, causing them to suffocate, dehydrate, or slowly starve to death. The company who makes the product claims: "Tanglefoot Bird Repellent is a nondrying, non-toxic compound or paste that adheres to all types of surfaces while remaining sticky."

The bat that Jennifer Michaelis rushed to place in our care had glue over her eyes, her limbs; every inch of her delicate body was drenched in the gooey substance and to make it worse, since she had contact with the ground, dirt and debris became part of the goop that was covering her.

Repeated applications of vegetable oil were applied to remove the adhesive, followed by bathing with Dawn liquid detergent. In all, over the course of two days, the bat was oiled and bathed eleven times. Additionally some of the goo remained on her neck and muzzle creases which required seven more baths to those areas.

We asked Jennifer if she wished to name the bat she saved, and she chose to name her Sarah, after her daughter, who is a bat enthusiast. Thank you, Jennifer, for saving Sarah and driving 45 minutes each way to bring her to us for medical treatment.

Dottie Hyatt

For months we have seen haunting pictures and video of wildlife that was incapacitated and robbed of a normal life as their homes were destroyed and their food poisoned from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. Volunteers worked endlessly to save those they could, and hung their heads with grief when so many died. But you never hear or see the thousands of bats that are caught in glue traps every year; their struggles unseen, their cries for help rarely heard as they succumb to a slow and painful death.

This would have been an account of yet one more bat whose fate was sealed, due to an unfortunate encounter with "Tanglefoot Bird Repellent," had it not been for kind-hearted Jennifer Michaelis, who was leaving a store in Weatherford, Texas, in August and noticed two children pouring water over something small and alive on the ground. She took the time to inspect their activities and saw the tormented creature was a struggling bat covered in a thick, sticky substance that resembled molasses. The bat was completely incapacitated. She cautioned the children to stop what they were doing and immediately went inside a "Big Lots" store to retrieve a box in which to put the bat. It was then she found out that the manager of Big Lots had placed bird repellent along the top edge of the building to keep the pigeons from roosting on the building.



Dottie Hyatt

Note: You can help prevent bats and birds from untimely deaths from glue traps and adhesive bird repellants. Please write to Big Lots and encourage them to stop using these products, and please encourage them not to sell any type of glue traps for mammals.

Steve Fishman, President
Big Lots Corporate Headquarters
300 Phillipi Road
Columbus, OH 43228

Please also write to the makers of Tanglefoot and let them know their product is cruel and causes great suffering and death to wildlife.

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