

SEABIRD SUSPENSION & SUPPORT

A solution for pelagic and other water birds who can't support their weight

This is what we call a 'gannet net'. Its purpose is to provide a hammock type support for birds that can not stand either due to injury, illness, exhaustion, or design (common loon). It allows free movement of the sternum, essential for respiration facilitating the expansion and contraction of the air sacs. Birds who can't support their weight risk suffocation due to sternal movement restriction and keel sores. Although not originally developed by us, Florida Wildlife Hospital has been using these nets successfully with pelicans, gannets, loons, terns, gulls, grebes and even ducks. In addition to the support, the nets help keep these birds clean.

HOW TO:

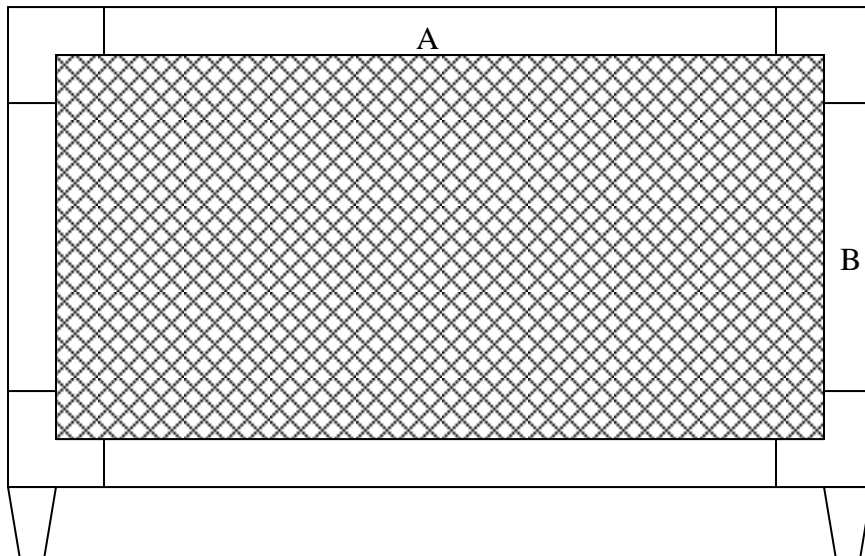
Step one: Determine appropriate size for your caging. Choose a cage you would likely house a gannet in and measure the inside dimensions. Make the net just a little smaller so it will easily fit inside of the cage. Hint: Don't forget to check the size of the door opening!

Step two: Cut 2 equal pieces of PVC for side A, and 2 for side B. Use sandpaper to smooth edges. Hint: Sides A + B will not equal outside length & width, you must account for the 'T'

Step three: Assemble all sides with furniture T's and recheck size. After you get the size you want, cement all adjoining pieces.

Step four: Cut netting to approx. 2 inches more than outside dimensions. Place on top of the PVC and secure with tie wraps, one about every 4-6 inches or as needed. Trim off excess netting and ties.

Step five: Adjust height by cementing on a coupler to all four of the legs. Hint: you will need to cut four approximately 1" pieces of PVC to use to adjoin 'T's' to the coupler.



Supplies

10 ft (+/-) 1 1/2-inch PVC
4 1 1/2 inch PVC coupler
4 1 1/2 inch PVC furniture
90 degree 'T'
2 inch polypropylene game
farm mesh netting
12-15 4" tie wraps
pvc cement, sandpaper

Suppliers

PVC- Home Depot, Lowes
90 degree 'T'- local patio
furniture store
netting - bait shop, feed
stores, J.A. Cissel
800-631-2234 (bulk)

Tools

Hacksaw, scissors