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Press Release

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[Bridges & Tunnels](#)

IMMEDIATE

Verrazano-Narrows Employees Corral Injured Goose

Two MTA Bridges and Tunnels employees were led on a brief, but wild goose chase Thursday morning after getting reports from motorists about an injured Canadian goose in the roadway at the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

Officer Gus Sasso and Level I Maintainer Jim Ferguson heard a call come over the radio around 11 a.m. Thursday about an injured duck or goose on the lower level of the Staten Island-bound roadway. Ferguson, who was in a wrecker truck on the Staten Island side of the bridge, and Sasso, on patrol nearby, immediately responded.

They found the goose on the normally busy 92nd Street entrance ramp. It appeared to have a broken wing. "We didn't want to hurt the bird or scare it any more than it already was," said Officer Sasso, a 9-year veteran. It was not clear how the bird got injured.

With Ferguson on one side and Sasso on the other, the pair managed to corner the goose and lead it to a grassy median. "We very gently held it down by its neck to keep it calm until a backup team arrived and we were able to put it in a box," Ferguson said.

The entire incident took about 10 minutes. The 92nd Street entrance ramp was closed for about a half hour. Traffic was not affected because it occurred off-peak.

It's not the first time MTA Bridges and Tunnels employees have dealt with animals on the bridge's roadways. In the past, employees have helped rescue dogs, cats and the occasional chicken, but the injured goose was a first.

"If you see an animal in the roadway it's important to respond as fast as possible to make sure it can be removed safely," Ferguson said. "It may not be a normal part of the job but it's what we're supposed to do."

Suspecting the bird came from nearby Poly Prep High School in Bay Ridge, several employees took the goose back there. The groundskeeper confirmed that he was missing one of a regular flock of geese and took control of the injured bird.

Caption: Officer Gus Sasso (left in vest) and Maintainer Jim Ferguson gently hold injured goose found on the lower level of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Thursday morning.

MTA Bridges and Tunnels' facilities, which connect the five boroughs of New York City, are the Robert F. Kennedy, Throgs Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, Henry Hudson, Verrazano-Narrows, Cross Bay Veterans Memorial and Marine Parkway-Gil Hodges Bridges, and the Queens Midtown and Brooklyn-Battery Tunnels.

