Bottle Babies

Neonatal Care of Puppies & Kittens
Why Do We Bottle-feed Babies?

- Unable to lap milk or eat solid food; still need nourishment and care
- Mother unable to nurse and care for babies due to health or large litter size
- Orphaned puppies and kittens come from a variety of sources
Basic Needs of Neonatal Puppies & Kittens

- Nourishment & Hydration
- Shelter & Safety
- Warmth
- Elimination
What Should A Neonate Puppy Eat?

- Keep formula in the freezer, no more than 6 months opened
- Mix formula with fresh water @ a ratio of 2 parts water to 1 part formula (2:1) unless directed otherwise
  - Store in refrigerator after mixing
  - Spoils after 24 hours
  - Should be warm, but not hot
What Should A Neonate Kitten Eat?

- Keep formula in the freezer, no more than 6 months opened

- Mix formula with fresh water @ a ratio of 2 parts water to 1 part formula (2:1) unless directed otherwise
  - Store in refrigerator after mixing
  - Spoils after 24 hours
  - Should be warm, but not hot
How Often Do Bottle Babies Eat?

- Week 1 (0-7 days): every 2-3 hours
- Week 2 (8-14 days): every 3-4 hours
- Week 3 (15-21 days): every 4-5 hours
- Week 4 (22-28 days): every 5-6 hours
- Week 5 to 8: every 8 hours
How Should I Feed Baby?

**Puppies**
- Dr. Brown’s Baby Bottle or Pet-Nurser

**Kittens**
- Kitten or Pet-Nurser
How Much Do I Feed Baby?

- Puppies & kittens should get about 7.5 mL formula per ounce of body weight per day.
- That means that after you multiply body weight in ounces by 7.5, you should divide by the number of feedings per day.
- That gives you a target to aim for or stop baby from over-eating.
- Please refer to your handout in your folder for more detail.
Proper Feeding Technique

This isn’t it!
Proper Feeding Technique

We should NEVER feed a baby on her back!

What’s wrong with this method?
Proper Feeding Technique

What’s wrong with this method?

Tilt the end upward and you will minimize the amount of air baby swallows!
Proper Feeding Technique

- Keep baby on her stomach
- Tilt that bottle

Way to go!
Shelter & Safety: Puppies

- A small crate can be used as an incubator until pups are starting to walk.
- Walking means “graduation” to an ex-pen or playpen.
- Keep away from drafts and cool areas (76° or below).
- Cover with bed sheets or blankets.
Shelter & Safety: Kittens

- A small crate can be used as an incubator until kittens are starting to walk.
- Walking means “graduation” to a condo (preferred) or small wire crate.
- Keep away from drafts and cool areas (76° or below).
- Cover with bed sheets or blankets.
How Do I Keep Babies Warm?

- Any heating device should be used with caution and frequent monitoring

- SnuggleSafe discs are optimal

- Electric heating pads may be used
  - Always use on LOW and covered with pad case and under blanket/bedding

- Heating device should not cover the entire sleeping area
Heating Devices
Elimination

- Babies under ~3 weeks old need help to potty
  - Baby will urinate with every feeding
  - Baby will defecate about every 24 to 48 hours
- We accomplish this through gentle rubbing of the anus, vulva, and prepuce with:
  - baby wipes, cotton balls, or wash cloth
  - And warm water
Puppies & kittens begin the weaning process around 4 to 5 weeks of age, depending upon breed and individual health.

In general, weaning should take about 7 to 14 days.

Utilizing a gradual watering-down of formula, we can minimize diarrhea from diet change during the weaning process.

Please see your weaning handout.
Symptoms of Illness

- Diarrhea (2 instances or more)
- Vomiting (2 instances or more)
- Coughing or trouble breathing
- Sneezing
- Goopy eyes
- Runny nose
- Hair loss
- Lethargy
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss

Please call or email if you note any of these symptoms – we are here to help!
Need to Talk?

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