

Bottle Babies



Neonatal Care of Puppies & Kittens



Animal Humane
NEW MEXICO

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

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

- What's wrong with this method?



Proper Feeding Technique

- ▶ Way to go!
- ▶ Keep baby on her stomach
- ▶ Tilt that bottle



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

Weaning



- ▶ 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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