

**Preston Royal Animal Clinic, Inc.
10720 Preston Road, Suite 1013
Dallas, Texas 75230
214-369-7364**

ORPHAN CARE

What to Feed?

Commercial Formulas:

Puppies: **Esbilac** (Borden)

Kittens: **KMR** (Borden)

Homemade Formulas:

- Puppies:
1. 1 cup whole milk*
1 tsp salad oil
1 drop infant multi-vitamin
1 tsp white Karo syrup

Blend well into a fine puree
 2. 2 parts canned puppy food
1 part water

Blend well into a fine puree
- Kittens: 1. 0.5 cups whole milk*
1 egg yolk
1 drop infant multi-vitamin
1 tsp white Karo syrup

Blend well into a fine puree

* DO NOT USE straight cow's milk as it contains 3 times the lactose

How and how much to feed?

Equipment: measuring cup, 1 oz nursing bottle, syringe, 8-10 French feeding tube and an ounce scale.

The scale is used to weigh daily to determine feeding success.

Warm all foods prior to feeding. Test temperature on your wrist.

Two methods of feeding:

- (1) Nipple bottle-feeding (see pet store for bottle)
Never squeeze milk into the mouth with a bottle as they can choke.
- (2) Tube feeding (the doctor will demonstrate)
Mark 75% of the distance from the nose to the last rib on the tube
Aspirate air from syringe
Pass tube gently until you reach mark
If resistance is met before you reach the mark, you are in the trachea!
PULL TUBE OUT!!! Try Again. Call if you still have problems.
Administer food slowly over a 2-minute period.

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The abdomen should become enlarged, but not over distended. In the first few weeks it will be necessary to burp the orphan by rubbing their sides and to stimulate defecation and urination by swabbing the genital area with warm water on a cotton ball.

Feed _____ ml of formula divided into _____ equal feedings.

Week	ml /100 gm*
1	13
2	17
3	20
4	22

* 100 gm = approx. 3.5 ozs.

Feeding Continued:

At 3-4 weeks of age you may start to introduce solid foods by mixing formula with regular food to make a slightly thicker gruel. Slowly decrease the amount of formula over 1-2 weeks.

Housing?

The first few weeks of life puppies and kittens rely on their environment to maintain their body temperature especially if separated from the dam and littermates.

Cardboard Box

Electric Heating Pad covered with waterproof materials and placed as follows:

1. Place under 2-3 towels
2. Place at one end of the box only to allow an area for the orphan to get cool
3. Run partially up one side of the box
4. Use your hand to determine if it's too warm. If it is uncomfortable for you then certainly it is for the puppy or kitten.

or, **a lamp** placed over one end of the box to provide ambient heat.

Keep the environment at the following temperatures:

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Week	° F
1	86
2-3	80
4-5	75

Excessive crying indicates hunger, cold, illness, or other problems!

Behavior of Orphans and Expectations:

Not all orphans develop the following traits, but it is good to be aware of them:

Isolation from their own species in the first 6 weeks of life does increase the likelihood of behavioral problems.

Puppies: Over dependence on humans may result in destructiveness, barking or whining, and self-mutilation.

Kittens: May develop self-aggression or inappropriate social responses, or become very passive.

Options of raising orphans:

- (1) Foster mother with litter of similar age -- BEST
- (2) Hand raise and contact with a litter of same species during first 4-6 weeks
- (3) Human contact only -- WORST

Birth Weights and Weight Gain:

Breed	Birth Weight (grams)
Miniature Schnauzer	180
Beagle	280
German Shepard	400
Great Dane	450-550
Kittens	90-110

Weight Gain: Puppies: 1-2 grams / day / lb of adult weight = _____
Kittens: 50-100 grams / week

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Despite all our efforts some orphans suffer from a fading puppy / kitten syndrome in which they ultimately die. This is due to lack of colostrum at birth and decreased contact with their own species.

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