Bottle Feeding Puppies and Kittens

Formula

- Goats milk works as a temporary substitute, but it can get expensive. Goats milk is sold at Wal-Mart and most grocery stores.

- Cow’s milk is not an alternative; it will make the animal scowers which will cause diarrhea and eventually kill the orphan.

Recipe

- 12 oz. can of full fat evaporated milk. (Do NOT use sweetened condensed milk!)
- 6 oz. sterilized water (baby water OR cooled boiled water)
- 1 raw egg yolk (yolk only, NO WHITES, egg whites can cause serious illness)
- 1 cup of plain full fat yogurt
- 1 tablespoon Karo Syrup or Corn Syrup (NOT HONEY! Honey can cause death)
- 1 dropper full of human baby pediatric liquid vitamin (optional)

Place ingredients in a blender and blend or use a wire whisk. Be careful to not over blend and create a milk shake full of bubbles and then tube bubbles into the puppy. Will keep in the refrigerator for 4-5 days. Heat small amounts in the microwave for 5-10 sec. depending on amount. Shake well to avoid hot pockets of formula that might burn.

Nipple Hole Size

- To make a hole in the nipple, use a heated needle. To enlarge the hole, use the heated needle to pierce the tip of the nipple a few times.

- Hold the bottle/nurser upside down. The formula should drip out with a gentle squeeze of the bottle. If it flows, the hole is too big. If a drop doesn’t come out unless squeezed, the hole is too small.

- Using very sharp nail scissors you can cut a small “x” in the nipple if you are having trouble getting the hole just right.
• If the hole is too big, often you can add a tsp. (more or less) of baby rice cereal to thicken it up and get the correct viscosity for the formula to flow through the hole and yet not choke the orphan. We have also seen people add tape to the hole and re-cut to get them to the next feeding.

• Sometimes two are three holes is better than one hole.

**Feeding**

- Orphan nursers can be purchased at Wal-mart, pet stores, feed stores, the Internet.

- A syringe or eye dropper can be used for tiny orphans or those having trouble latching onto the nipple. When using a syringe or dropper, feeding from the side of the mouth rather than the front seems to be easier for some orphans.

- Never feed a chilled pup or kitten. They cannot digest food when chilled. Warm the chilled orphan up with a towel warmed in the dryer.

- Check the nipple flow before you start feeding.

- Always feed with the animal on its stomach, never on its back. It can aspirate milk into the lungs. Placing the baby in a small towel on your lap or against your chest is a good way to keep hold of them.

- If bubbles come out of the animal’s nose, the formula is coming out too fast and can get into the lungs. Gently hold the pup or kitten and two hands, making sure the animal’s head is secured between your hands and the body between your forearms. Swing the animal with its head facing down to encourage any aspirated liquid out of the lungs.

- A tiny bit of baby rice cereal can help keep the formula thick enough so it is not aspirated as easily.

- If the baby doesn’t seem to be eating, check the nipple. They can sometimes become blocked and the orphan will become frustrated enough to stop sucking.

- You can burp the pup or kitten half-way through the feeding if they are not eating enough. Burp the baby after feeding, just like you would a human baby.
### Feeding Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First 3 days</th>
<th>Every 2 hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Next 4 days</td>
<td>Every 3 hours with 4 hour stretches at night</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd week</td>
<td>Every 4 hours with one 6 hour stretch in the night</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd week</td>
<td>Orphan should be started on a gruel made of any warm formula and any combination of: soaked kibble, canned puppy or kitten food, baby rice cereal, cooked plain, shredded chicken. Continue bottle feeding every 5 hours with an 8 hour stretch in the night if the orphan is eating the mush.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4th week</td>
<td>The gruel should be fed 4-5 times a day and the bottle feeding reduced. Reduce the amount of formula until the gruel is a thick mush. Provide water. At this point kittens sometimes mature faster than puppies and might wean 4 or 5 days sooner than puppies.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5th week</td>
<td>Continue feeding mush, slowly reducing the amount of formula until the food is a softened kibble. Bottle feeding should be down to 1x a day or none. Provide water and dry kibble at all times.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th week</td>
<td>Weaning should be completed by this time. Continue with softened kibble until the orphan is readily eating dry kibble.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Pooping and Peeing

- Orphaned animals cannot relieve themselves. The mother licks the area, stimulating the baby to poop or pee. The foster parent must do this by massaging the orphan on its anus and genitals using warm moist rag, cotton ball or a bit of toilet tissue. Pee the animal first and then move to the anus so you don’t introduce bacteria into the urinary tract.

- This is a necessary and vital part of raising orphaned pups and kittens. You should do this before and after feedings or if the baby is whiny. Usually by the age of 3 weeks the animal’s own muscles in this area will have developed and this will no longer be necessary.
• If the baby seems constipated, add an ounce more water to the formula. If very constipated you can give the orphan 1 cc of mineral oil.

Dehydration in Orphans

• Newborn puppies quickly become dehydrated very quickly if they are not nursing. They can also become dehydrated if their environment is too hot and dry.

• Two indicators of dehydration are loss of elasticity in the skin (the skin stays tented when gently pinched up and decreased saliva production (the gums and tongue feel tacky or dry).

Hypoglycemia in Orphans

• Hypoglycemia quickly develops in a newborn that is not nursing frequently. As hypoglycemia worsens, the puppy becomes progressively more depressed and weak.

• Without treatment it may develop muscle twitches or seizures and then it will become unresponsive and comatose.

• If it is showing any of these signs place a few drops of corn syrup on its tongue. This simple procedure is often sufficient to revive a hypoglycemic puppy. Also watch for signs of hypoglycemia over the next several days, as you adjust your puppy's feeding schedule.

Chilling

• Newborn orphans cannot regulate their body temperature very well. They quickly become chilled, or hypothermic, if their mother is not available to keep it warm. It will be necessary to provide a heat source for the orphan's the first few weeks of life. For this reason especially, we recommend bottle baby fosters to take no less than 2 animals if possible in order to increase the likelihood of keeping warm.

• Avoid drafts by placing the baby's box away from windows, doorways, and air-conditioning vents.

• The most common heat source is a heating pad on low, covered with a towel. It should take up no more than half of the orphan's box so the animal may crawl to the cooler side if it gets overheated.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Orphan Weight</th>
<th>Formula Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 oz.</td>
<td>15cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 oz.</td>
<td>15cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 oz.</td>
<td>15cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 oz.</td>
<td>30cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 oz.</td>
<td>30cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 oz.</td>
<td>45cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 oz.</td>
<td>45cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>8 oz.</td>
<td>60cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 oz.</td>
<td>60cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 oz.</td>
<td>75cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 oz.</td>
<td>80cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 oz.</td>
<td>90cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 oz.</td>
<td>90cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 oz.</td>
<td>105cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 oz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 oz.</td>
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<td>17 oz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>18 oz.</td>
<td>135cc daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 oz.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 oz.</td>
<td>150cc daily</td>
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Orphan Weight

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1 oz.          15cc daily
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3 oz.          15cc daily
4 oz.          30cc daily
5 oz.          30cc daily
6 oz.          45cc daily
7 oz.          45cc daily
8 oz.          60cc daily
9 oz.          60cc daily
10 oz.         75cc daily
11 oz.         80cc daily
12 oz.         90cc daily
13 oz.         90cc daily
14 oz.         105cc daily
15 oz.         105cc daily
16 oz.         120cc daily
17 oz.         120cc daily
18 oz.         135cc daily
19 oz.         135cc daily
20 oz.         150cc daily

21 oz.         150cc daily
22 oz.         165cc daily
23 oz.         165cc daily
24 oz.         180cc daily
25 oz.         180cc daily
26 oz.         195cc daily
27 oz.         195cc daily
28 oz.         210cc daily
29 oz.         210cc daily
30 oz.         225cc daily
31 oz.         225cc daily
32 oz.         240cc daily
33 oz.         240cc daily
34 oz.         255cc daily
35 oz.         255cc daily
36 oz.         270cc daily
37 oz.         270cc daily
38 oz.         285cc daily
39 oz.         285cc daily
40 oz.         300cc daily

1/2 ounce formula = 15cc
1 ounce formula = 30cc