

Bats 101:

Neonates

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WARM

WARM WARM WARM

WARM

WARM

WARM!!

WARM!!!

WARM!!!

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Scales weighing to tenths are preferred.

DON'T FORGET to get a tare weight on your container and cloths!!!!

- Pups under 3g need to be monitored **very** carefully.

- Pay close attention to humidity and temperature.



- Give SQ fluids on intake, offer formula after second hydration.



Feed only till stomach is full, not bulging. DO NOT OVERFEED!
Learn to watch milk in stomach to prevent bloat





Infant Housing in Emergencies

- Heat supplied on bottom and side
- Moisten towel underneath to provide adequate humidity (the younger the pup, the more humidity is critical, especially those under 3g)



- Ideal temp is 85° F and 60% humidity

- Pup can choose cloth at bottom or to hang as they grow, this setup provides variations in temps, adequate for pups up to about 3 wks old

- Can combine pups after 48 hours of monitoring, watch for nursing, biting on wings (similar to squirrels, reduce time between feedings if this occurs)

Infant Housing in Emergencies (con't)



Incubator, (circulating air type)



Formula

- Zoologic 33/40[©] ; Fox Valley 32/40[©] , etc.
- Feed pup at rate of 5% body weight q 2-3 hrs 24/7 till weight is 8 g, then 6am to 11pm. But better to watch milk line
- Catheter tips, dental pics work well onto a 1cc feeding syringe with a cannula tip





A: 1.0cc syringe
with cannula

B: 1.0cc syringe
with trimmed IV
tip

C: 0.3cc
tuberculin
syringe

D: Forceps

E: Child's
paintbrush

F: Laboratory
spatula

G: IV tip with
needle

Bloat

- Common problem as a result of overfeeding, must be addressed immediately. Pups can die quickly (within 24 hours) from overfeeding
- If stomach is bloated at next feeding, immediately start strong mint tea
- Substitute next feeding with tea, give dilute formula for following feeding.
- Do not resume formula until normal stool is produced, then reintroduce dilute formula until balance is resumed



NOTE: Use 1 mint tea bag or a few tablespoons of fresh mint; add ¼-1/3 cup of boiling water. Leave bag and/or leaves in to allow steeping. Refrigerate when cool.

Additional care:

- Stimulate eyes-closed pups with cotton tip swab or soft tissue
- Wrap in cloth or hold snugly when feeding. Keep very warm
- Finish each feeding by offering water using drips on mouth or child's paintbrush

- Offer mwm guts after formula feeding at around 10 days of age

- Once accepted, remove mwm head & squeeze into mouth



Feeding Mealworms

Food for approximately 10,000 mealworms:

Mwm Supplement Powder (see below)	50-75g
Leafy greens (unchopped dandelion greens, kale, beet greens, romaine-no cruciferous vegetables or spinach)	1 cup
Sweet potato and/or apple	1/2 sliced

Mwm Supplement Powder:

Cornmeal	210g
Oat bran	90g
Wheat bran	65g
*Vionate© (MiracleCorp Products, Dayton, OH) vitamin/mineral powder	215g
*Calcium carbonate	215g

NOTE: Do not feed mwms to bats that contain morphed mwms (beetles). When receiving fresh mwms, discard bedding and make fresh to eliminate contamination with quinones. Feed mwms for a few days prior to feeding to bats (From Bats In Captivity, Vol. 3 Susan Barnard)

*Both of these supplements are available through Chris Clark's, Squirrels and More online store (www.squirrelsandmore.com and other online sellers)

Weaning

- Offer formula from dish, once accepted, one feeding may be replaced by self feeding formula from dish.
- Eliminate one feeding per day every 3-4 days
- If housing multiples, keep close track of weights



Weaning (con't)

- Increase amount of mwms per feeding, feed with heads removed
- Most difficult part of weaning is getting pup to eat chitin
- Allow pup to hold headless mwm while squeezing guts into mouth
- Eventually pup will eat a piece of chitin...don't hold your breath, it will take awhile





Weaning (con't)

- Provide mwms 24/7
- Once self feeding on mwms, discontinue formula slowly as with other mammals. Pups should be weaned between 6 -8 weeks. ALWAYS monitor weights
- IMPERATIVE that mwms be fortified, especially with calcium for continued growth.



Release

- Experience with Mom or “Teacher Bat” is essential for survival
- “Moms” show feeding grounds, water sources and resting areas
- Release studies have shown that some species of pups released with small flight cage experience, typical of bat caregivers, barely survive a week in the wild*

*See IWRC Journal of Wildlife Rehabilitation, Volume 29, Nos. 2-3 2008. Abstract “Post Release Survival of Hand Reared Pipistrelle Bats”







Questions????

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