

Bottle Feeding: Step for Success!

Thank you for being a bottle feeder! Without wonderful fosters like you, these little ones would have virtually no chance at survival. Bottle feeding can be challenging but anyone can do it! Follow these steps to bottle feed like a pro!

1. Make sure you have a bottle and nipple that are appropriate for your bottle babies
 - a. We will send you with bottle and nipple the kittens/puppies are currently taking
 - b. Most kittens do the best with miracle nipples. These nipples are a great size for kittens and already have a perfect hole in the tip
 - c. Other good options are the PetAg and Pet Nurser



2. Make sure it is safe to feed your kittens (or puppies)
 - a. The first and most important step is make sure they are warm enough to be fed
 - i. Feeding a cold kitten or puppy can cause serious health issues
 - ii. Kittens and puppies should always feel warm when handled
 - iii. If your kittens/puppies feel cold, do not feed them
 1. Immediately start the process of warming to prevent hypothermia
 - a. Warm up a rice sock for 20-30 seconds and put neck to them
 - b. Use a warm fleece/towel to gently rub to stimulate blood flow
 - iv. Making sure your bottle babies are in a warm den will help prevent hypothermia
 1. Keep Snuggle Safe warm, wrapped in fleece and in their den
 2. Make sure fleece are fluffed to allow them to burrow/root into fleeces
 3. Make sure puppies and kittens are never wet since this will quickly cause hypothermia
 - iv. Making sure your bottle babies are in a warm den will help prevent hypothermia
 1. Keep Snuggle Safe warm, wrapped in fleece and in their den
 2. Make sure fleece are fluffed to allow them to burrow/root into fleeces
 - b. Once you know your little one is warm, make sure they are alert and interactive
 - i. If your bottle baby isn't alert and interactive, they won't be able to swallow
 - ii. If they are unable to swallow, feeding them will lead to aspiration pneumonia
 - iii. Most puppies and kittens will get excited when they realize it's meal time
3. Prepare your formula and bottle
 - a. Never feed your kittens or puppies cow's milk, goat's milk or human formula
 - i. These can cause severe GI problems with vomiting and/or diarrhea
 - b. We will send your with an appropriate formula to feed your bottle babies
 - i. KMR or Breeder's Edge for kittens
 - ii. Esbilac Puppy Milk Replacer for puppies

- c. Prepare the formula per recommendations on container
 - i. In general:
 - 1. KMR and Breeder's Edge – 1 part formula mixed with 2 parts water (distilled water is best)
 - 2. Esbilac Puppy Milk Replacer - 1 part formula mixed with 2 parts water
 - d. Mix well using a blender ball and small container
 - e. Warm bottle in a warm water bath until formula is slightly warm when dripped on your wrist
 - i. We recommend warming formula in warm water baths and not using the microwave
 - 1. Microwave heating can damage some of the nutrients in the formula
 - 2. Microwaving also can lead to very hot pockets of formula in a bottle
4. Get your kitten (or puppy) in a good position for bottle feeding
- a. Never put a puppy or kitten on their back to feed
 - i. This can cause them to breathe the formula and develop aspiration pneumonia
 - ii. Aspiration pneumonia can be fatal and requires very intensive treatment
 - b. Have the bottle baby get into a position similar to how they would nurse from mom
 - i. Prone – belly down with head very slightly elevated



- c. Gently hold the kitten's head stable with one hand while providing the bottle with the other
- d. Once in position, slide the nipple into the mouth and slowly invert the bottle to start flow
- e. The bottle baby should roll their tongue into a u shape and begin to swallow/suckle
- f. Be very cautious that you are not squeezing formula into their mouth since this can cause aspiration
- g. Follow feeding charts provided to determine amount fed at each feeding
- h. In general:

kitten weight and feeding chart

AGE	WEIGHT	AMOUNT PER FEEDING	SCHEDULE
0-1 week	50-150 grams	2-6 ml	Every 2 hours
1-2 weeks	150-250 grams	6-10 ml	Every 2-3 hours
2-3 weeks	250-350 grams	10-14 ml	Every 3-4 hours
3-4 weeks	350-450 grams	14-18 ml	Every 4-5 hours
4-5 weeks	450-550 grams	18-22 ml	Every 5-6 hours
5-8 weeks	550-850 grams	(weaning; offer ample wet food)	Every 6 hours

Puppy Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart

Puppy Weight (lbs, oz)	Puppy Weight (grams)	Daily Caloric Requirement*	Amount of Formula Per Day (ml)**	Amount Per Feeding (ml)*	Approximate Number of Feedings Per Day***
2 oz	57 g	11 kcal	13 ml	2 ml	6
4 oz	113 g	23 kcal	25 ml	5 ml	6
6 oz	170 g	34 kcal	38 ml	7 ml	6
8 oz	227 g	45 kcal	50 ml	9 ml	6
10 oz	284 g	57 kcal	63 ml	11 ml	6
12 oz	340 g	68 kcal	76 ml	14 ml	6
14 oz	397 g	79 kcal	88 ml	16 ml	6
16 oz (1 lb)	454 g	91 kcal	101 ml	18 ml	6
2 lb	907 g	181 kcal	202 ml	36 ml	6
3 lb	1,361 g	272 kcal	302 ml	54 ml	6
4 lb	1,814 g	363 kcal	403 ml	73 ml	6
5 lb	2,268 g	454 kcal	504 ml	91 ml	6
6 lb	2,722 g	544 kcal	605 ml	109 ml	6
7 lb	3,175 g	635 kcal	706 ml	127 ml	6
8 lb	3,629 g	726 kcal	806 ml	145 ml	6

** Never use a sponge to feed puppies (or kittens). Only use bottles**

5. After feeding, complete the routine by cleaning the face with a warm wash cloth or baby wipe
6. Finally, stimulate to pee and poop by gently wiping with a warm wet wash cloth or baby wipe
7. Put any unused formula in a covered container in the refrigerator
 - a. Mixed formula should not be kept for more than 24 hours

Want more great tips and tricks? Check out the link below!

<http://www.kittenlady.org/bottlefeeding?rq=bottle%20feeding>

