

A close-up photograph of a golden retriever puppy lying down, being fed from a syringe. A person's hand is visible holding the syringe to the puppy's mouth. The person is wearing a grey uniform, likely a veterinarian or a staff member at a veterinary clinic. The puppy is looking towards the camera with a calm expression.

**EMERGENCY CARE**

**A GUIDE TO**

**SAVING**

**LITTLE LIVES**

# **B**ABY ANIMALS NEED SPECIAL CARE

*The emergency kit provides Esbilac<sup>®</sup> milk replacer for puppies, or KMR<sup>®</sup> milk replacer for kittens.*

*You can also use Esbilac and KMR for other domestic animals or for wildlife in short-term, emergency care situations,.*

**WHICH  
PRODUCTS  
TO USE**

**ESBILAC<sup>®</sup>**

**PUPPIES**

**RABBITS**

**OPOSSUMS**

**SQUIRRELS**

**BEAVERS**

**CHIPMUNKS**

**FERRETS**

**GUINEA PIGS**

**KMR<sup>®</sup>**

**KITTENS**

**HAMSTERS**

**PORCUPINES**

**BADGERS**

**RACCOONS**

**If this is your first experience caring for an orphaned animal, you should contact your veterinarian so that an examination can be made for injury, disease, estimate of age, and general condition.**

**If you're working with orphaned wildlife it is especially important to contact a member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association (NWRA) or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area. Most states have laws governing the care of wildlife, and there are a number of potential health hazards that exist. Licensed professionals can help establish if the animal really is an orphan, what its emergency needs are, what precautions should be taken and where you can transport the animal for the care it needs. Call a member of the NWRA, or our number on the back panel. We have available a list of wildlife professionals nationwide.**

# **M**AKING THE BABY FEEL AT HOME

An appropriately sized incubator box should be prepared for the orphan. The bottom should be lined with soft, clean rags or newspaper. Heat may be provided by a heating pad on “low” placed under the box or covered tightly with a towel to prevent the animal from crawling under it. The heating pad should be positioned so that it does not cover the entire bottom surface. This will allow the orphan to seek a cooler or warmer temperature as desired.



## **The Temperature Is Important And Should Be Checked At The Level Of The Animal**

Orphans less than 1 week of age should be kept at a temperature of about 90 degrees F. This can be dropped about 5 degrees each week until room temperature is reached by the 4th week. Usually kittens require warmer temperatures than puppies, and smaller animals require warmer temperatures than larger animals.

## **A Heated Environment Will Require Added Moisture**

**50% relative humidity is satisfactory. A humidifier in the room or one or two pans of water placed close to the orphan's box will help meet this goal.**

**It is important to avoid drafts on the orphan yet still provide ventilation. Place a ventilated cover over the box to control drafts.**

## **Determine The Correct Feeding Level**

**It is always easier to raise an orphan if it has been able to nurse from the natural mother for the first 24 to 48 hours. The colostrum milk it receives will provide some natural protection against disease.**

**The weight of the orphan is needed to determine a correct feeding level. Subsequent weigh-ins every second or third day will be a guide to progress in achieving growth. The orphan may lose a little weight during the first couple of days, until it adjusts to the formula being fed. If there are no diseases or intestinal upsets, the orphan should subsequently grow at an increasing rate as milk consumption increases.**

## Amounts To Feed

A feeding rate of 2 tablespoons of liquid or reconstituted powder for each 4 ounces (1/4 lb. or 113 grams) of body weight during each 24 hour period will work with most species. This quantity should be divided equally among 3 or 4 feedings per day. Very small animals weighing only 1 or 2 ounces which need only 1/2 or 1 tablespoon of milk per day, or orphans which are very weak, may do better if the total quantity of milk to be fed is divided in very small feedings, as many as 6 times per day. Rabbits should be fed only 2 to 4 times per day.

We recommend that orphans be slightly underfed for the first 2 to 3 feedings, to allow them to adapt to the Esbilac or KMR formulas.

After full feeding has been established for 3 to 4 days and there are no apparent digestive problems, the feeding level can be slowly increased. Bottle-fed orphans will often reject the bottle when they are full.  
Do not over feed.

As you slowly increase the amount of milk replacer being offered, the orphan should consume all or nearly all of the milk at each feeding.

**In the case of wildlife, please note that the products mentioned should be used only for short-term emergency care, as each wildlife species has very specific feeding requirements. Again, call a member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area.**

## **Using A Nurser Bottle**

**The PetAg 2 oz. Nurser works well with kittens, puppies, and some small wildlife. The 4 oz. size is appropriate for larger puppies, older kittens, and other animals as they grow and consume larger quantities.**

**If the orphans are extremely small or weak and cannot nurse from even the 2 oz. bottle, the milk may have to be delivered orally with an eyedropper or feeding syringe.**



## Positioning The Animal For Feeding

Most people experienced in feeding orphans prefer to hold the animal during bottle feeding. The



orphan's head should

be tilted up and  
outstretched slightly  
while the animal is  
laying on its stomach.

The bottle nipple is  
placed in the orphan's  
mouth and is pulled  
up and away slightly;  
this will elevate the

head and encourage vigorous sucking. If milk comes out the orphan's nose during nursing, the hole in the nipple is too large and milk is being delivered too fast. Aspiration may occur.

## After Feeding

Clean, soft towels or cloths should be available to replace soiled bedding and to rub the animal to stimulate circulation and bowels. Young orphans will usually require some help to urinate and to have a bowel movement. Gently rub the genital and anal areas after feeding. A warm, moist cloth works best for this.

The orphan may need to be burped after feeding to relieve any gas formation.



All bottles, nipples, and other utensils used in feeding should be thoroughly washed with hot, soapy water after each use. Rinse well to remove any soap residue.

## When To Use PetAg's Bene-Bac™ Pet Gel

If, as you increase the amount being fed, the orphan experiences excessive diarrhea, return to the previous lower level of feeding for several feedings before trying to increase the level again. Since diarrhea can upset bacterial balance in an animal's system, PetAg's Bene-Bac™ Pet Gel may be used as a source to replace beneficial bacteria. If problems persist, a veterinarian should be consulted.



## Look, He's Growing!

When the orphan is on its feet, eyes open, and increasing in body weight, consideration should be given to getting the orphan to lap its milk. Dip your finger into the bowl and let the orphan lick it as you guide his head toward the bowl. You'll want to be patient and not push the orphan's head into the bowl. This could frighten the orphan and could cause it to become ill.

## After Lapping Has Been Learned

At this time, PetAg's Esbilac® 2nd Step™ Puppy Weaning Food or KMR® 2nd Step™ Kitten Weaning



Food can be mixed into the milk replacer. Start with a thin gruel and slowly increase the amount of weaning food over several days making a somewhat thicker gruel each day.

## Making the Transition to Solid Food

Orphaned puppies and kittens can be changed to commercial food by the time they are 5 weeks old for puppies and 6 weeks for kittens. Rabbits can be on a regular food diet by 3 or 4 weeks. Always provide plenty of fresh, clean water to drink.

In the case of orphaned wildlife, the choice of solid food varies. Contact a member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association, or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible, so they can prepare the orphan for release into their natural environment.

These professionals will see that the animal is provided with the proper food, skills and environment that will enable them to survive in the wild.

# **N**eed Additional Food?



As the baby animal grows, you may need additional food before it reaches weaning age. You can continue to feed Emergency Packs, or if the animal or animals consume larger quantities, you may wish to purchase larger sizes of Esbilac® or KMR®. Both liquid and powder formulations will provide the nutrients your growing animal needs.

***Of Special Note:** Wild animals are not pets, and it is not our intention to suggest that wild animals be kept as pets. Rather, any discussion concerning orphaned wildlife in this brochure is specifically intended for the sole purpose of short-term emergency care. For your safety, and that of the animal, contact a member of the National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association or a licensed wildlife rehabilitator in your area. These professionals can prepare baby wild animals for successful release to their natural environment.*



**PetAg provides a full line of products for small animals including KMR<sup>®</sup> and Esbilac<sup>®</sup> liquid and powder milk replacers, and KMR<sup>®</sup> 2nd Step<sup>™</sup> and Esbilac<sup>®</sup> 2nd Step<sup>™</sup> weaning foods, PetAg Nursing Kit, Bene-Bac<sup>™</sup> Pet Gel and Mirra-Coat<sup>®</sup> skin and coat supplements, plus Rawhide Brand<sup>®</sup> dog chews.**



**PetAg, Inc.**

**Specialists in lifelong nutrition**

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**For more information, contact our technical service personnel at 800-323-0877. We're glad to help.**