

# RAISING BABY SQUIRRELS AT HOME

## EMERGENCY TREATMENT

### ***Read Each Section Before Acting***

- Step 1: Get the Baby Warm-----Section A
- Step 2: Hydrate-----Section B
- Step 3: Treat Wounds-----Section C
- Step 4: Get the Right Formula and Feeder-----Section D

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Bathroom Business.....Section E
- Common Problems.....Section F
- How Old Is the Baby?.....Section G
- Weaning and Diet.....Section H
- Release.....Section I
- Squirrels Are Not Pets.....Section J

When feeding or handling any animal, wild or domestic, it is recommended standard procedure to wash your hands before and after handling. Gloves are also appropriate for those who wish to wear them.

## EMERGENCY TREATMENT

### **A. GET THE BABY WARM!** (Do it now before going any further!)

A baby squirrel should feel much warmer than your skin. If it feels cool to your touch then it is cold. Hypothermia will kill. Do not attempt to feed a cold baby. The baby does not produce enough body heat to warm him or herself. All babies, sick or healthy, will need a heating source. Wrapping it in a blanket will not suffice since the baby cannot warm the blanket. You must provide a constant heat source. The most dependable and accessible is an electric heating pad. Make sure it does NOT have an automatic shutoff. Temporary heating can be supplied by filling a plastic bottle with hot water and putting it under a blanket with the baby on the side. When using a heating pad, turn it on the lowest setting and place it on a table. If the heating pad does not have a cover, fold a flannel receiving blanket and lay it on top of the pad; rumple another flannel receiving blanket or old t-shirt and put it in a box or in a little carrier. If you use a box you have to make air holes on top and on the sides top. The box should be bigger and taller than a shoebox with flaps that can be folded over. No matter how small, these babies can and will climb out of an inadequate nest. A good option is a plastic reptile carrier, 11x6x8", that has a lid with air holes. They can't climb out of these handy carriers. Do NOT use a towel since the baby's feet can get caught in the loops and can cause nails to be torn or bone breakage. Make a pocket in the middle of the blanket with your fist, put in the baby and gather the covers together over the baby. Place only half of the nest box on the heating pad, giving them a "cool down" area if needed.

**B. HYDRATE THE BABY!** The most important treatment you will give to the baby squirrel is hydration. Do not start the baby immediately on any formula - hydrate first. The baby

squirrel has already been traumatized by being separated from its mother, not to mention falling, possible injuries, etc. including being without food for hours or even days. The smaller the baby, the greater the risk of dehydration and if you do not re-hydrate you will lose it. Even the healthiest looking babies should first be hydrated. Why is hydration so important? Water is essential for the digestion of food: fluid is pulled from the body's cells during the digestive process. If the fluid in the body is low, then there is not adequate fluid for digestion and the baby's reserves are drained. Additionally, the baby's body is accustomed to Mother's milk and introducing a new food can cause diarrhea, leading to further dehydration. Soon, without hydration, you can have a thin, dry, grayish looking little mummy instead of a precious, fat, round, wet, pink baby.

**Hydration Instructions:** Most people immediately give milk to baby animals. DON'T do that. A baby will not starve to death over a 24 hour period, but it can die of dehydration. Hydrate first with electrolytes (fluids). Use Pedialyte, or mix 1 qt warm water, 1 tsp salt, and 3 tsp sugar. Administer with a feeding syringe.

The amount of fluids you give depends on how dehydrated is the baby. A dehydrated baby has grayish gums and lips; it will ball up, be unresponsive, sluggish or lie still; it will look thin and feel cold to your touch and if you pull the skin from its back it stays up or goes down slowly, as opposed to going down fast in a hydrated baby. See the attached fluids table to know the correct amounts of fluids to give during 24 hours periods. Recovering from dehydration requires fluids for 4 days. This does NOT mean you will give only fluids to a dehydrated baby. The baby needs nutrition also and fluids are not nutritious. The right combination of meals of fluids and meals of formula are essential for recovering.

ALWAYS give fluids as the first meal even if you think the baby is not dehydrated. NEVER start any baby on formula right away. Always hydrate first and then gradually introduce the formula as described in the formula section.

**C. TREATING WOUNDS:** Many squirrels are found with bloody noses, cat, dog or ant bites. Bloody noses should be clean with a clean warm wet towel or paper towel to remove all blood. It may take several cleanings. Be gentle. All puncture wounds should be cleaned gently by flushing with diluted betadine.

**D. FEEDING, FORMULA, and INTRODUCING FORMULA TO THE BABY:** The correct way to feed an infant squirrel is by using a 1 cc syringe. We do NOT recommend using any larger syringe until the squirrel is 6-8 weeks of age. At that age, a 3 or 6 cc syringe may be used if you are comfortable with the larger size. The best 1cc syringes are the type with "O-ring gaskets". Your local pharmacy will know what type of syringe you mean. Buy several so you are not constantly cleaning syringes. We recommend squirrel "miracle" nipples to be attached to the syringe. Squirrels adjust quickly, if not immediately, to this nipple.

The most common mistake made when feeding infant squirrels is aspiration from feeding too quickly. Larger syringes are harder to control and it is much easier to aspirate using them. NEVER USE PET NURSER BOTTLES. No matter what the size of the squirrel, these types of bottles will cause aspiration. Aspiration is getting milk in the lungs of the squirrel which may cause pneumonia and death if not treated quickly.

The babies need to be fed very slowly. Tiny ones (pinkies) are fed one drop at a time, allowed to swallow and then give another drop. All squirrels need to be fed in an upright position to minimize aspiration. If you see fluids or formula coming out of their nose, stop immediately, wipe excess from nostril area and wait. Keep cleaning the nose until no more comes out the nostrils. If necessary tilt them upside down for a couple of seconds to allow for drainage. After aspirating, some may not want to continue eating. You can give them some time and feed later. As stated before, aspiration usually comes from feeding too fast.

### **Formula:**

- You may use Esbilac, Fox Valley, or any other puppy milk replacer. Add Lactobacillus powder (good bacteria) or yogurt.
- Only mix small amounts, whatever you think you will use in 1 to 2 days. Refrigerate powder and mixture.
- When preparing to feed take out only what you think you will need for that feeding. Warm it up to about 100 degrees. The formula should feel warm on your wrist, not too hot. Discard leftovers.
- Introduce the formula gradually:
  - First feeding: electrolytes only
  - Second feeding: 1/4 already mixed formula and 3/4 water
  - Third feeding: 1/2 already mixed formula and 1/2 water
  - Fourth feeding: 3/4 already mixed formula and 1/4 water
  - Fifth and subsequent feedings: formula.
- Be sure there are not air bubbles in the syringe.
- Weigh the baby. The right amount of formula for each meal for each baby is 5% of body weight. A table with amounts to feed is attached. Example: If the baby is 100 gr. the 5% will be 5 gr. Give 5 cc of formula
- Hold the baby in an upright position.
- Push the syringe slowly and steady. If formula comes out from the nose stop immediately. That means the formula went the wrong way and can cause aspiration pneumonia. Wipe its nose immediately,
- How often you feed the baby squirrel depends on its weight and condition. Tiny pink babies without hair can only ingest small amounts per feeding, so more feedings are necessary. They should ideally be fed every 2 to 3 hours, but they can survive with only one feeding during the night. However, each squirrel differs in age and condition, so common sense and watching the stool content is the best judge for feeding frequency. If the baby is dehydrated or sick then you should give nightly feedings until it is fully recovered.
- NOTE: If the baby throws back its head during feeding and looks like a guppy breathing out of water don't panic. It is probably not choking if formula is not coming out its nose and mouth. It may be having a "feeding trance". Remove the syringe and let it relax and snap out of it before continuing to feed slowly.
- A good gauge of how well you are doing with the feeding is the condition of the baby's stool. The stools should be mustard yellow to brown, firm and well formed. If they become pasty or whiter in color you're probably overfeeding. You need to cut back on the amount of formula until it becomes the proper color and consistency again.
- The baby MUST be kept clean. Change bedding every day. Clean off formula and urine/feces from the baby when necessary with a damp Q-tip or tissue. After feeding

the baby be sure to clean all formula off its skin, otherwise it will cause irritation to its sensitive skin.

## **GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS**

**E. BATHROOM BUSINESS:** An infant squirrel should be stimulated to urinate and defecate every time you feed it. Failure to do so can cause uremic poisoning or bloating. All mother mammals lick their babies to initiate this process, and to keep their babies clean. Stimulate by gently rubbing the babies' genitals with a cotton ball, Q-tip, or tissue moistened with warm water or other soft, absorbent material. By the time they open their eyes they are usually going on their own.

## **F. COMMON PROBLEMS**

### **Diarrhea**

To avoid it:

- Use the right formula
- Give the right amount of formula (do not overfeed, underfeeding is not as bad as overfeeding), at the right time
- Introduce the formula gradually
- Sterilize feeding utensils, syringes, nipples, etc.
- Sterilize bedding material
- Wash your hands frequently, before and after handling
- Avoid extreme or fluctuating temperatures
- Warm up the necessary amount of formula per feeding, discard leftovers
- Throw away formula more than two days old

Treatment:

- Give electrolytes instead of formula for one feeding. Then, introduce the formula gradually again. Do NOT keep the baby in Pedialyte only for several feedings! It will get very weak and skinny. Remember, Pedialyte is not a source of nutrients, it's only purpose is to rehydrate the baby.
- Give extra Lactobacillus (Fox Valley or Bene bac or yogurt) in the formula
- Antibiotics: Sulfa (SMZ-TMP), Albon

### **Bloating/constipation**

To avoid it:

- Use the right formula
- Give the right amount of formula (do not overfeed, underfeeding is not as bad as overfeeding), at the right time
- Introduce the formula gradually
- Avoid bubbles in the syringe
- Avoid bubbles in the formula. Don't shake the container with the formula before a feeding, use a spoon to stir it. Don't mix the formula in a blender before a feeding. These procedures add air to the formula
- Never feed when the baby is cold

Treatment:

- Rub, rub, and rub their tummy very gently
- Submerge the lower part of the body of the baby in warm water for a few minutes while rubbing the tummy. Don't let the baby fall in the water and drown, be careful!
- Simethicone (gas drops – pink liquid), give a couple of drops every hour or so
- Give extra Lactobacillus (Fox Valley or Bene bac) in the formula
- You should NEVER feed a bloated baby. You can wait up to 12 hrs. If the baby is still bloated after that you need to give subcutaneous fluids. Take it to the rehabilitator if you not able to do it yourself
- When the bloating goes down and the baby poops give Pedialyte for one feeding and then introduce the formula gradually again
- Enema

### ***Aspiration pneumonia***

To avoid it:

- Always nurse with a syringe
- Use the right nipple or syringe tip
- Nurse the baby in the right position (upright)
- Push the syringe slowly and steady
- If they are in the “feeding trance” stop pushing the formula until they come out of this "stage"
- If you see bubbles coming out the nose, stop nursing and clean the nose immediately, wait a few minutes and keep cleaning the nose if necessary, in this way they can catch their breath

Treatment:

- Antibiotics: Amoxicillin

### ***Swollen genitals due to sucking***

To avoid it:

- Give the right amount of formula at the right time

Treatment:

- Separate the baby from others when necessary
- Apple bitter or tea tree oil on genitals
- E. collar when the baby is doing it to himself
- Remove the scab on genitals with a damp Q-tip and/or apply antibiotic ointment until it falls (the scab!)
- Be sure to stimulate until the baby urinates

If any of these conditions lasts 24 hours or longer, consult your rehabilitator.

### ***Malocclusion***

Squirrels teeth never stop growing, that's why they need to trim them down constantly. They do so by gnawing on hard nuts, bones, trees, etc. When the upper and lower incisors are misaligned, usually due to a fall, they can't trim them down and they will keep on growing. This is a big problem for a squirrel. You MUST check their teeth to make sure they are not growing crooked. If they are, you should take the baby to a rehabilitator.

## **G. HOW OLD IS THE BABY?**

- 1 to 5 days - Two inches long, naked, deaf, blind, toothless and pink.
- 5 to 10 days - Development of soft, reddish, sable hair around nose and mouth.
- 10 days to 2 weeks – Hair begins spreading over the head, shoulders, and back, the belly and legs are still pink.
- 3 weeks - Lower front teeth begin emerging. Hair is now slick, smooth, and shiny. Still no hair on legs and belly.
- 4 weeks - Ears begin to open. Some downy white hair beginning on belly and legs.
- 5 weeks - Tail hair is short, straight, and lies parallel with the bone. Eyes open.
- 5 to 6 weeks - Upper front teeth begin emerging. Begins curling tail over back.
- 6 to 7 weeks - Fully furred, sleeping less with more active periods.
- 7 to 8 weeks - Tail is fluffy.
- 8 to 9 weeks - Looks like a miniature squirrel, very active. It has lost infant appearance.
- 9 to 10 weeks - Develops more muscular physique.
- 10 to 12 weeks - About 3/4 full size. Release at 12 weeks.

**H. WEANING and DIET:** The baby's eyes open at 5 weeks, but they don't see well at first and nothing about their behavior will change for another 5 or 6 days; they will still eat and go back to sleep immediately. At that age you can start giving solid food. Give rodent chow (dry biscuits), or monkey biscuits. Later on, when they are happily eating the rodent chow you can add vegetables such as broccoli, sweet potatoes, carrots, corn, and fruits such as apple. Give big pieces of food. They could choke with tiny pieces and they like to rip food apart with their big teeth. Do not give nuts or sunflower seed at this point, they are candy with the nutritional content of a candy bar! Try to keep the rodent chow dry, don't mix it with the veggies and fruit. They don't like them damp/mushy. Always have fresh foods in the baby's cage in addition to rodent chows.

Squirrels will chew on deer antler or dog bones. It will be a good source of minerals and help strengthen teeth and jaws.

A squirrel fed mostly peanuts or sunflower seed will develop metabolic bone disease. It will have bone malformations, seizures, other problems and may die or have to be put to

sleep. Give no salted peanuts and seeds only as treats after the squirrels have been weaned from the formula.

**I. "SOFT RELEASE":** There is a special and simple way to successfully release the squirrel you have nurtured. Don't just take it to a tree and let go. The squirrel may reach your back door before you do, begging to come back in. That he is begging to come in doesn't mean he is rejecting his birthright, it means he is unfamiliar with the outdoor territory. Squirrels have home ranges in which they know every tree, rock, and bush, dog and cat. Take them to another area and they are completely unnerved and afraid. Provide a support system for your baby until he or she has adjusted to new surroundings and is comfortable outside. Your baby must learn to interact with its own kind as well as learn about its new environment. Put the cage outside a week or so prior to your release date. This will introduce the baby to outside temperatures, sounds, and daylight/nighttime schedules gradually. Place the cage in a protected area such as a screened porch, a covered patio, carport, etc. Make sure cats and dogs cannot reach the cage. You could even hang the cage high in a tree. Protect the cage from rain and too much direct sun. Continue putting food in every day. It will be very frightened at first and will probably hide in the nest box for a day, but will eventually come out. One day, when the squirrel is scampering all over the cage, and the weather will be mild for several days, open the door and let it find its way out. Do not remove the cage and keep food and water and the nest box in the cage. He or she will come and go from the cage for awhile until it has built a wild nest or taken over an old one.

**J. SQUIRRELS ARE NOT PETS:** Squirrels are wonderful babies but can be vicious adults. They have no domestic instincts. Do not allow yourself to confuse their natures with those of dogs and cats. Squirrels have special dietary and special needs that are difficult to satisfy. Mature squirrels are unpredictable in mood, do not forget or forgive mishandling, and will bite even the hand that fed it and kept its bottom cleaned. Do not believe the stories you hear or read which imply squirrels are wonderful pets - they are not. Squirrels are creatures of pure instinct with very strong defenses. Their bodies are designed for trees and dirt, not houses and cages. They will shred your curtains, urinate and defecate anywhere they happen to be. The squirrel is driven by instinctive emotional and physical needs that cannot be satisfied in captivity and that cannot be changed. A squirrel you raised and who lives in your backyard is a happy squirrel that will come to you and take treats. You can have a relationship with a free squirrel that you cannot possibly have in captivity, a relationship that is based on respect and admiration and not on possessiveness. Love and nurture the baby you have found, and after giving life, give the greatest gift of all - the freedom to enjoy that life. The first time you watch your baby scamper up a tree you will feel the rightness of it, you will see its unbounded joy. You will profit from one additional aspect of freeing your baby and that is a feeling of participation in the natural world by giving back to Mother Earth one of her own.

### **SUPPLIES - SUPPLIERS**

Esbilac – Pet stores

Lactobacillus powder - Fox Valley formula 1-800-679-4666

Carriers – Pet stores –

Old t-shirts or baby blankets

Heating pad WITHOUT automatic shutoff

Q- tips

Soft facial tissue

Kitchen scale

1 cc Syringes with O-ring gaskets, and “miracle” nipples – [www.squirrelsandmore.com](http://www.squirrelsandmore.com)

### DAILY FLUID REQUIREMENTS

These amounts are for total fluid intake for daily maintenance or mild dehydration.

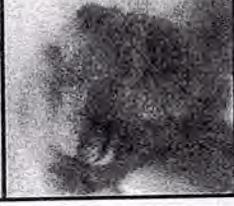
<b>Animal weight (grams)</b>	<b>Day 1 (cc)</b>	<b>Days 2 &amp; 3 (cc)</b>	<b>Day 4 (cc)</b>
10	0.80	0.65	0.50
20	1.60	1.30	1.00
30	2.40	1.95	1.50
40	3.20	2.60	2.00
50	4.00	3.25	2.50
60	4.80	3.90	3.00
70	5.60	4.55	3.50
80	6.40	5.20	4.00
90	7.20	5.85	4.50
100	8.00	6.50	5.00
150	12.00	9.75	7.50
200	16.00	13.00	10.00
250	20.00	16.25	12.50
300	24.00	19.50	15.00
350	28.00	22.75	17.50
400	32.00	26.00	20.00
450	44.00	29.25	22.50
500	40.00	32.50	25.00
600	48.00	30.00	30.00
800	64.00	52.00	40.00
1000	80.00	65.00	50.00
1500	120.00	97.50	75.00
2000	160.00	130.00	100.00
3000	240.00	195.00	150.00

## AMOUNTS OF FORMULA FOR BABY MAMMALS

These amounts are only guidelines, every individual is different.

<b>Weight in grams</b>	Squirrels and opossums	<b>Bunnies</b>
	<b>(cc's of formula per feeding)</b>	<b>(cc's of formula per feeding if giving two feedings per day)</b>
10	0.50	1.00
15	0.75	1.50
20	1.00	2.00
25	1.25	2.50
30	1.50	3.00
35	1.75	3.50
40	2.00	4.00
45	2.25	4.50
50	2.50	5.00
55	2.75	5.50
60	3.00	6.00
65	3.25	6.50
70	3.50	7.00
75	3.75	7.50
80	4.00	8.00
85	4.25	8.50
90	4.50	9.00
95	4.75	9.50
100	5.00	10.00
105	5.25	
110	5.50	
115	5.75	
120	6.00	
125	6.25	
130	6.50	
135	6.75	
140	7.00	
145	7.25	
150	7.50	

**General Feeding Guidelines for Tree Squirrels, e.g., Eastern Gray, Fox and Abert's. (See development charts.)**  
*(Assumes normal admission protocols are followed for hydration and gradual introduction of formula and solids.)*

Physical and behavioral age characteristics	Approx. Age Feeding schedule (depends on species!)			% body weight	Diet	General notes
	Birth - first 5 days	X/day	Freq (hrs)			
 <p><b>Neonate ("Pinkie")</b> Umbilicus still attached (about first 10 days). Pink and hairless. May begin to gray on head and tail at end of first week. Eyes bulgy and tightly shut. Ears glued to head. Sleeps, twitches often. On supplemental heat. Chills easily and fast. Tail fur - skin</p>	10	2	5 %	Esbilac® mixed at: 2 parts water with 1 part Esbilac®.	Includes a night feeding. Keep warm while feeding. Attach soft IV catheter trimmed to 1/3" or modified nipple (trim nipple from Mothering Kit 1/2" and place through trimmed Elongated nipple) to 1cc syringe. Feed very slowly. Stimulate after feeding.	
	 <p><b>Infant</b> Progressive graying of skin with fuzz developing (except for underside). Whiskers more noticeable. Eyeslit more apparent, eyelids less transparent. Ears more defined. Sleeps, twitches often. On supplemental heat. Tail fur - fuzz</p>	8	2.5	5 %	Esbilac® mixed at: 2 parts water with 1 part Esbilac®.	Generally can discontinue night feeding after umbilicus drops. Keep warm while feeding. Use 1cc syringe with small modified nipple (above) or cannula. Feed slowly. Stimulate for urination/defecation after feeding.
 <p><b>Young juvenile (beginning to furr)</b> Furring, except for underside. Eyelids will furr and look more relaxed. Lower incisors emerge (may see some blood on syringe during feeding). Reacts to sound. Still sleeps most of the time but slightly more active after feedings. Still on supplemental heat. Tail fur - 1/8"</p>	7	3	5 %	Use formula above, adding in 1/8 part MultiMilk™.	Use 1cc syringe. Use a small modified nipple on syringe if desired. Feed slowly to avoid aspiration. After lower incisors are fully evident and squirrel has more fur on underside, MultiMilk™ may be gradually added to formula. Stimulation for urination/defecation still required.	
	 <p><b>Juvenile (eyes closed)</b> Continuing to develop fur except for lower abdomen. Eyes may make blinking motion. Reacts more to sound, may "bark" when startled. Starting to explore when awake. Lurches when walking. Grabs things when picked up ("Velcro" stage). Still on supplemental heat. Tail fur - 1/4"</p>	6	3.5	5 %	Use formula above, with addition of 1/8 part rodent chow dust. Consider adding extra 1/8 part water.	Introduce rodent chow "dust" into formula after formula is warm. Also add extra 1/8 part water. Pulverize rodent chow into a very fine dust using a food processor or mortar and pestle. Sift through a very fine wire strainer. Store dust at room temp in a dry container.)

© 2001-2003, WildAgain Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Esbilac® and MultiMilk™ are products of PetAg, Inc. (800) 323-0877. Monoject® syringes are manufactured by Sherwood Medical, St. Louis, MO, 63103.

**General Feeding Guidelines for Tree Squirrels, e.g., Eastern Gray, Fox and Abert's. (See development charts.)**  
*(Assumes normal admission protocols are followed for hydration and gradual introduction of formula and solids.)*

Physical and behavioral age characteristics		Approx. Age (depends on species)	Feeding schedule X/day	Feeding schedule Freq (hrs)	% body weight	Diet	General notes
	<b>Juvenile (eyes open)</b> Vision clears after eyes are open a few days. May startle when noticing things. May attempt independent elimination, but continue to provide stimulation. Upper teeth more evident, may begin to shred and chew. Stands easily, starting to climb. May attempt to hold food. Still on supplemental heat. Tail fur - 1/2"	5 - 6 weeks	5	4	5 %	Use Esbilac <sup>®</sup> MultiMilk <sup>™</sup> formula, with addition of 1/8 rodent chow dust and 1/8 part water. Rodent chow.	Graduate to using a 3cc syringe when over 100 grams. Decreasing to 4 feedings of formula per day after eyes have been open 4-6 days. Continue to stimulate. Offer rodent chow in cage for them to start nibbling.
		6 - 7 weeks	4	5	5 %	Rodent chow.	
	<b>Older juvenile (pre-weaning)</b> Coat is filling in more. Full eyesight and hearing. More interest in chewing and able to chew and swallow foods. Very active. Walking, dashing, climbing. Sits up to hold food. Jumping with inaccurate aim. Most urinate without stimulation. Tail fur - 3/4"	7 weeks	4	5	5 %	Use Esbilac <sup>®</sup> MultiMilk <sup>™</sup> formula, with addition of 1/8 rodent chow dust and 1/8 part water. Rodent chow.	Keep ample amount of rodent chow in cage. Use a 3cc syringe if over 100 grams. Decrease to 3 feedings of formula per day when beginning to eat rodent chow or when climbing well and hanging upside down from branches. Put water bottle on cage. Avoid fruit, vegetable, or nut treats.
		8 weeks	3	6	5 %	Rodent chow.	
	<b>Older juvenile (weaning)</b> Coat becoming dense and full. Fully alert and very mobile. Starting to use water bottle or bowl. Faster climbing. Balances sleep time with activity (playing, wrestling, pouncing, exploring, grooming). Hangs upside down from branches. Eliminates on own. Tail fur - 3/4 - 1"	8 - 10 weeks	1 - 2	12	5-7 %	Use Esbilac <sup>®</sup> MultiMilk <sup>™</sup> formula, with addition of 1/8 rodent chow dust and 1/8 part water. Rodent chow.	Provide rodent chow in cage daily. Provide branches for gnawing and climbing. Decrease feeding formula to once per day (preferably evening) when aggressively eating rodent chow and using water bottle. Only give a small piece of fruit (e.g. apple), vegetable or a nut twice a week.
		10 - 12 weeks	1	24 (once daily)	5-7 %	Provide constant supply of Rodent Diet and fresh water. When close to weaning, start diluting formula with water.	Provide rodent chow in cage daily. Eating solids aggressively. May refuse formula. Weaning for larger tree squirrels may occur between 280-340 grams. Only give a small piece of fruit (e.g. apple), vegetable or a native nut twice a week. Provide branches for gnawing and climbing.
	<b>Older juvenile (final weaning)</b> Becoming much more independent. Dislikes handling. More grooming. Hangs upside down from branches. Drinks from water bottle or bowl. Diet consists mostly of solids. Begins to refuse formula. Move to larger pre-release cage after weaning. Tail fur - 1+"						

© 2001-2003, WildAgam Wildlife Rehabilitation, Inc.  
 All Rights Reserved.  
 Evergreen, CO, USA (303) 670-3309 <ewildagam@aol.com>

Esbilac<sup>®</sup> and MultiMilk<sup>™</sup> are products of PetAg, Inc. (800) 323-0877  
 Monoclonal<sup>®</sup> syringes are manufactured by Sherwood Medical, St. Louis, MO, 63103