

Appendix 1: Insectivore Rearing Mix

	Insectivore Rearing Mix	Typical Analysis	Powder (dry)	Meat Mix (as fed)
Balanced diet for insectivorous & carnivorous birds including magpies, kookaburras, birds of prey, seabirds, waders, wrens, robins & nestling honeyeaters.	Protein	52%	31%	
	Fat	12%	12%	
	Carbohydrate	18%	6%	
	Calcium	2.0%	0.8%	
	Energy	16 MJ/kg	10 MJ/kg	
Pack Size: 250g, 1kg & 5kg.				

Do not add vitamin, mineral or concentrated food supplements to the following diets as this may significantly alter the balance of nutrients. Insectivorous and carnivorous birds require high levels of protein, but low levels of carbohydrate. Avoid supplementing with products containing grains, starches or sugars (e.g. bran, baby cereal, bread etc).

Meat Mix

Mix 10g (1 scoop) of Insectivore powder per 20g of minced meat or fish.

A little extra water may be necessary to moisten the preparation. Meat mix may be rolled into small balls or "worms" to facilitate hand-feeding.



Egg Mix

Mix 20g (2 scoops) of Insectivore powder with one mashed hard-boiled egg (40g).

Egg should be well mashed first using a fork. A little extra water may be necessary to moisten the preparation.

Generally, larger insectivores and carnivores (e.g. magpies, kookaburras etc.) are fed **Meat Mix** and small birds (nestling honeyeaters etc.) and waders (e.g. Masked Lapwings) are fed **Egg Mix**. However, these preparations are nutritionally similar, so can be interchanged.



Feeding:

Dependent chicks or non-feeding adults: using tweezers, feed small pieces directly to the bill of gaping young chicks. Force feed sick or non-feeding adults (e.g. Tawny Frogmouth) by pushing food deep into the esophagus. Always offer extra drinking water using a syringe, as hand-fed birds are prone to dehydration.

Self-feeding Birds: Offer food in a clean bowl. Live insects or invertebrates (mealworms, crickets, earthworms etc.) should be mixed in with these foods to encourage intake (Appendix 2). Always have fresh water available in a separate bowl.



Presentation of Food:

Insect Tray: Variety of mealworms, beetles, earthworms, crickets & slaters with **Insectivore Egg Mix**.

Insectivore Pellets

Mix 20g (2 scoops) of Insectivore powder with 12mL of warm water.

Slowly add the water and mix to a putty-like consistency. Break small pieces from the prepared mix and roll into pellets for feeding. This is still a relatively "dry" mix, so extra water should be offered by mouth when feeding pellets.

This is a useful method of feeding in emergency cases where there may not be access to meat or hard-boiled eggs to make up **Meat** or **Egg Mix** – all that is required is Insectivore powder and water. It is also a more concentrated diet with higher levels of vitamins and minerals (e.g. calcium) which may be beneficial for young chicks with fast growth rates.



Insectivore Slurry

Add 10g (1 scoop) of powder with 25mL of warm water.

Slowly add water and mix well to make a slurry. Let the mix stand for 2 minutes to absorb all the water. If too thick, add more water and continue mixing. Feed using a spoon or syringe with large bore. Feed at about 35°C. Use as an assist-feeding formula for sick birds or orphaned altricial chicks. Small insects may be dipped into slurry before being fed.

Insectivore Slurry can be injected into the cavities of whole prey at the rate of 10mL per 100g of whole fish or prey item. For suitable tube-feeding formulas refer to Appendix 8.



Storage

Store prepared food refrigerated for a day or frozen for up to 2 weeks. Small quantities can be frozen into ice cube trays (5-10g per cube), and thawed out as required.