

Eastern Barred Bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*)

Milk*	Age (days)	Tail (mm)	Head (mm)	Weight (g)	Feed (mL/day)	Notes
>0.7	35	24	34	35	6	Hairless, eyes closed, mouth beginning to open
	42	30	41	58	9	Short velvet fur, eyes opening, mouth open
	49	40	48	85	12	Eyes fully opened, fur thickening
	56	50	54	115	15	Adult-type fur, emerging from pouch
Weaning	63	58	59	150	10	Weaning off milk, eating solid foods
	70	Growth rate now about 5-10g per day			0	Fully weaned

Head Length is the most accurate measure of age in fast-growing young bandicoots. This is best achieved using vernier calipers to measure from the tip of the nose to the base of the skull. Body weight is highly inaccurate in determining age, particularly on furred young.

Generally, Eastern Barred Bandicoots less than 35 days of age are not viable, as the mouth is fused around the nipple.

*Milk is based on using Wombaroo Kangaroo Milk Replacer >0.7 at normal strength with an additional 1.0ml of The Good Oil for Animals™ mixed in per 10mL of milk. If The Good Oil for Animals is not available, Canola Oil can be used instead.

Provide fresh drinking water between feeds on hot days and once the young starts emerging from the pouch.

References

Heinsohn GE (1966). Ecology and reproduction of the Tasmanian bandicoots (*Perameles gunnii* and *Isodon obesulus*). University of California Publications in Zoology 80. Page 1-63.

Dufty AC (1995). The growth and development of the eastern barred bandicoot *Perameles gunnii* in Victoria. The Victorian Naturalist, 112, 79-85.

Ikonomopoulou MP, Smolenski AP, & Rose RW (2005). Changes in milk composition during lactation in the eastern barred bandicoot (*Perameles gunnii*)(Marsupialia: Peramelidae). *Australian Journal of Zoology*, 53(1), 59-65.