

Southern Brown Bandicoot (*Isoodon obesulus*)

Milk	Age (days)	Tail (mm)	Foot (mm)	Head (mm)	Weight (g)	Feed (mL/day)	Notes
>0.7	35	35	30	39	40	7	Hairless, eyes closed, mouth beginning to open
	42	43	33	43	55	9	Short velvet fur, eyes opening, mouth open
	49	49	35	46	73	10	Eyes fully opened, fur thickening
	56	55	37	50	95	13	Adult-type fur, emerging from pouch
Weaning	63	61	40	53	125	10	Weaning off milk, eating solid foods
	70	Growth rate is 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, Southern Brown 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

Duffy DJ & Rose RW (2007). Milk composition and growth in the southern brown bandicoot, *Isoodon obesulus* (Marsupialia:Peramelidae). *Australian Journal of Zoology*, 2007, 55, 323–329.
 Robert B & Lee AK (1990). Reproduction and life history of *Isoodon obesulus* in Victorian heathland. In *Bandicoots and bilbies* (1990): 311-318. Surrey, Beatty & Sons, Chipping Norton.