

Carnivorous Marsupials, Bandicoots and Bilbies

The milk of carnivorous marsupials, bandicoots and bilbies undergoes similar nutritional changes as that which occurs in macropods. This involves a progressive increase in total solids, fat and protein from early to late lactation while carbohydrate increases in mid lactation and then declines to very low levels during late lactation.

It is not practical to produce a multi-stage milk replacer for these animals as most have short pouch lives and young that come into care tend to be at the late lactation stage. We recommended feeding them **Kangaroo Milk Replacer >0.7** as this is a suitable high energy formula which many carers will have on hand or find readily available.

Bandicoots are known to have particularly high levels of energy in their milk and are very fast-growing. To cater for this we recommend the addition of up to 10% additional fat in the form of **The Good Oil for Animals** ie 10mL per 100mL of >0.7 Kangaroo Milk Replacer (page 48). The Good Oil may also be beneficial for carnivorous marsupials such as antechinus, phascogales, quolls & devils as it contains elevated levels of essential fatty acids (EPA & DHA) which are thought to be present in the milk of these species.

Growth charts are available for several species including Spotted-tailed and Eastern Quoll and Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

Contact Wombaroo or visit www.wombaroo.com.au for further information.

Feed Table Using Kangaroo >0.7

Body Weight (g)	Feed Volume (mL/day)	Body Weight (g)	Feed Volume (mL/day)	Body Weight (g)	Feed Volume (mL/day)
1	0.4	30	5.5	175	20
2	0.7	40	6.8	200	22
3	1.0	50	8.0	250	26
4	1.2	60	9.2	300	30
5	1.4	70	10	350	33
7	1.8	80	11	400	37
10	2.4	90	12	450	40
15	3.3	100	13	500	44
20	4.0	125	16	550	47
25	4.8	150	18	600	50

Tasmanian Devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*)

Milk ¹	Age (days)	Head Length (mm)	Weight (g)	Feed (mL/day)	Notes
>0.7	80	32	70	10	Light fur on back
	90	38	100	13	Mouth starting to open
	100	45	140	17	Eyes opening
	110	51	190	21	Emerged from pouch and left in den
	120	57	240	25	Well furred over entire body
	130	62	300	30	
	140	68	380	35	Incisors coming through - Introduce solid foods
Weaning ²	150	75	Growth rate now about 15-20g per day	40	Gradually increase solid foods and reduce milk intake
	170	87		30	
	190	95		18	
	210	102		8	Independently foraging
	230			0	Fully weaned (approx 1.5-2.5kg)

- 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.
- After 150 days of age, variation in body size between individuals becomes significant. Wean on to adult type foods such as mice, rats, day-old chicks, as well as supplementing with **Wombaroo Small Carnivore Food**.

Southern Brown Bandicoot / Quenda (*Isodon 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 now about 5-10g per day				0	Fully weaned

- 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.
- 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.