


Bottle Baby Program



How is this different?

- Based on Wildlife Center strategy to save baby wildlife
- Problem Solving without Euthanizing



You can start a bottle baby program anywhere!

- Trailer on South Congress



Volunteers and Fosters are equally important

- Don't lose sight of either one



Nursery Coverage

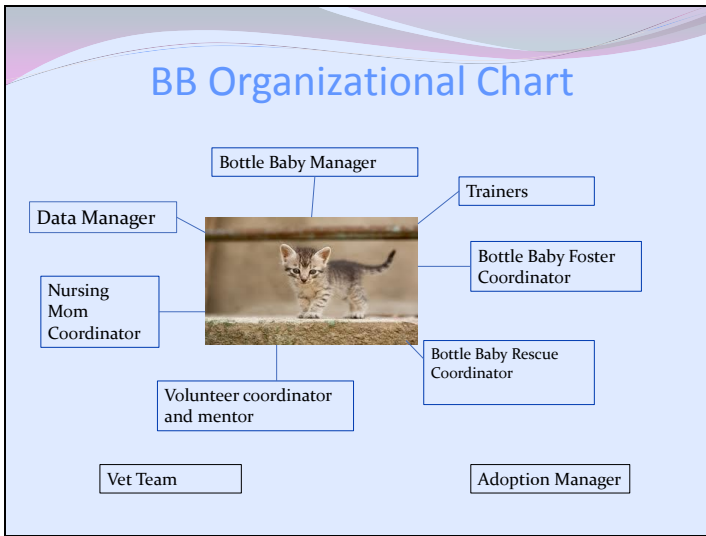
- Feeding shifts- 95% + Volunteers!
- Shift Leaders
- Feeder board/log
- Lock box so it can be accessed 24/7
- Chart for each litter



Communication


- Google Calendar Signup
- Reminder emails to the people who signed up
- BB Yahoo group
 - pros and cons
- White board
- Notes
- Daily Log





Important External Positions


Cat Adoption Manager
Oversees adoption processes, adoption centers and where our kittens go when they are old enough to find forever homes
ALL THESE KITTENS HAVE TO GET ADOPTED!



Veterinary Team
Oversees the care of the kittens, medications, and treatment.

How do we get and keep volunteers?

- Positive messaging-
 - Social media
 - Signs
 - Orientation
 - Fun
- Keeping volunteers
 - Train them well
 - Give them ownership
 - Manage expectations
 - Expect turnover
 - Help them
 - Give them specific roles




Equipment

- Fridge
- Microwave
- Snugglesafes
- Blankets
- Hamster cages
- Bowls (spill proof)
- Baby wipe warmer
- SCALE



Nursery Attire

- Smocks for each kennel
- Gloves
- Closed toe shoes
- Hair tied back



Supplies

- KMR
- Bottles
- Cat litter
- Cotton balls
- Hand sanitizer
- Disinfectant (nonirritating)
- Towels (small and paper)
- Canned kitten food
- Dry kitten food: (Royal Canin Baby Cat Kibble preferred)



Medical Guide

- URGENT - email or call person on call, start fading kitten protocol first!!!
 - Diarrhea
 - Abnormal twitches
 - Profuse Bleeding
 - Loss or decrease of appetite
 - Lethargic or depressed
 - Breathing heavily, gasping, breath interval is low
 - Head slumped in food/water bowl and can't wake up
 - Body is completely limp and non-responsive
- WATCH CLOSELY- get medical help same day but not an emergency
 - Coughing
 - Wheezing or Sneezing
 - Tires easily
 - Straining to urinate or defecate - stimulate, consult vet team if not productive
 - Change in attitude or behavior

Typical Diseases and Meds

- URI- doxycycline suspension, zithromax, baytril, or convenia (depends on severity)
- Diarrhea- Pen G, kaolin, amoxi, metro, panacur, marquis, baytril
- Vomit/Diarrhea- parvo protocol (5mg/kg baytril sq NOT 20mg/kg)
- Ringworm- wait on itraconazole, use topicals until >8wks
- Fleas- tiny drop of frontline or capstar
- Constipation- mineral oil PO with each feeding - a few drops per feeding until has bowel movement then stop to prevent diarrhea, sq fluids
- Not eating- tube feed, reglan, sq LRS, antibiotic
- Almost ALL kittens get sick with something!
- Fading Kitten Syndrome- usually has underlying problem, treat even if you don't see it

Fading Kitten Syndrome

- Sometimes kittens just fade
 - Stop growing
 - Lose weight
 - Stop nursing/eating
 - Can't stay upright
 - Cry continuously with extreme lethargy
- Chronic Illness can also pose problems (e.g., persistent diarrhea even after treatment)
- If kitten becomes lethargic/gasping for air:
 - Wrap kitten in heating source/pad, protected with a blanket, like a burrito
 - Make a sugar water mixture (or diluted Karo syrup) and carefully force feed with dropper or oral syringe every 2-3 minutes
 - Call On Call vet team person

Instructional Videos- Watch Later

- Youtube Video on how to feed and care for bottle babies:
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lifzi3oOV04&feature=relmfu>
- Youtube video on how to feed and care for gruel babies:
 - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nFNcs3mCCUQ>

Lessons Learned

- Trainings - Shadowing is very important
 - Video to help new volunteers understand the nursery before they start (welcome email)
- Weighing kittens before AND after they eat. Messy gruel babies LOOK like they have eaten a lot when actually they are wearing all of it!
- Vaccinate at 1 #



Lessons Learned

- It is easy to get overwhelmed-
 - set capacity based on volunteers/staff that you have to feed
- Fosters are just as important as the ward and need to be ready to take kittens as soon as they can eat gruel
- Sometimes you have to triage- choose between a fading kitten and everyone else who needs to eat
 - Kittens fade fast
 - Set expectations for that

Examination

- Aging
- Sexing
- Birth defects
- Assessing attitude
- Assessing hydration



Examination

- Check skin
- Temperature
 - 0-2 weeks ~96-99 F
 - 2-4 weeks ~ 98-100 F
 - 4-6 weeks ~100-101 F
- Weigh daily
 - Newborn ~2-3.5 ounces
 - Daily weight gain
 - 0-2 weeks ~0.35 ounce/day
 - 2-4 weeks ~0.5 ounce/day



Umbilical stump



Male or Female?



Male



Female

Examination

- Preventative health measures
 - Treating for parasites
 - Vaccination
 - Probiotics
- Keeping good records



Housing

- The basics
 - Temperature control
 - 86-90 F first week
 - 80-85 F second-third week
 - 74-79 F fourth week
 - Space considerations
 - Avoid mixing litters



Housing

- Housing for neonates (0-2 weeks)



Housing

- Housing for pre-weaned (2-4 weeks)



Housing

- Housing for post-weaned



Litter box tips



Feeding

- The basics
 - Milk replacer
 - Nipple selection
 - Preparing the milk



For the first few feedings dilute the milk replacer 50:50



Feeding

- Tips to prevent diarrhea
- Stomach capacity in (4 ml/100 g body weight)
- 1 week – feed every 3 hrs
- 2 weeks – feed every 3-4 hrs
- 3-4 weeks feed every 5 hrs

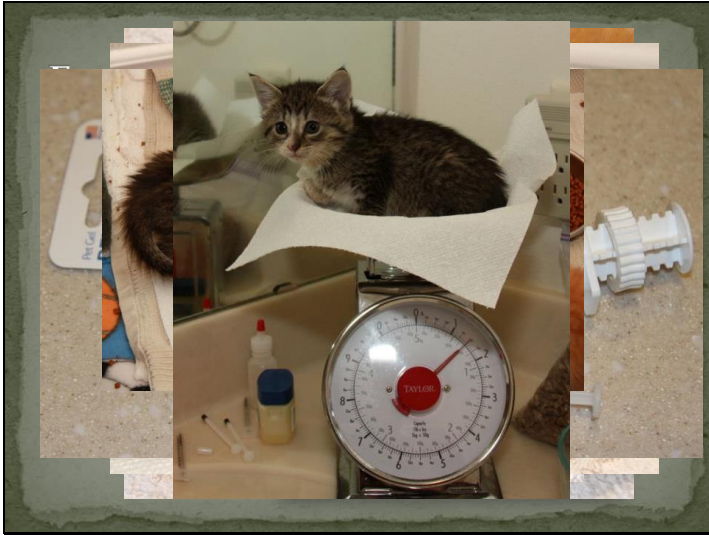
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Helpful tips for bottle feeding

- Warm milk
- Nipple on center of tongue
- Milk drips from nipple
- Kitten is sternal with neck slightly flexed and stretched out
- Angle the bottle to prevent air consumption
- Nipple 5/8"
- Patience!!!





Elimination and Grooming



Cleaning and Disinfection

- Very important!!!
- Bottle care
- Kitten care
- Housing care
- Wash hands between handling
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect items between use
- Dr. Kate Hurley "Sanitation to Save Lives"



Socialization Basics

- Neonatal (0-2 weeks)
- Pre-weaned (2-4 weeks)
- Post-weaned (4-6 weeks)



Situation Tips

- Kitten not nursing/non-responsive
- URI
- Elimination issues
 - Concentrated urine
 - Diarrhea
 - Constipation
- Kittens suckling on each other
- Sore rear end



Suckling on each other



Sore rear end tips



References

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