

Each year hundreds of dogs and cats are allowed to breed unchecked and the future for the resulting young is often grim. Spring the traditional time of birth sees ARK dealing with an influx of calls about newborn animals discarded like rubbish. Each caller wants information on what they do next having rescued these helpless victims.

The prime thing to remember is that hand-rearing any orphaned/abandoned animals is hard work; not only is there a physical price to pay, usually fatigue, but emotional as well for an animal you have fought so hard for finally may not make it.

In general by the time kittens and puppies are 10 days old their eyes are open and at around 14 days they begin to hear. At four weeks of age they should start walking. Young animals should be kept warm but overheating needs to be watched for, as the very young have no way of regulating their own body temperature. The size of the litter will be one of the determining factors on how much supplementary heat will be needed, as the larger the litter the more heat generated by them. They should never be placed directly on heat and if hot water bottles or kairo (heat pads) are being used care must be taken to ensure they are well wrapped and that they are regularly checked for their temperature.

Both Kittens and puppies need to be fed every two to three hours for the first week of their lives. Then the frequency of feeds should be slowly decreased and the amount of milk taken per feed increased, so by the time the animal is two weeks old every four hours is sufficient. Vets and pet shops should be able to supply bottles, teats and substitute milk. Cow's milk should never be used as it causes diarrhoea.



これだけは知っておこう

生まれてすぐの命を救うために...

いのち

アンマリー・マクギヴァン

まず覚えておかねばならないのは、どのような動物であれ、親から離れたり、捨てられたりした動物を手で育てることは容易ではないということです。肉体的な犠牲を払わねばならず、疲れてしまうことが普通で、しかも、精神的な犠牲も要求されます。動物の相手をするのがあまりにも大変なために、育てきれないかもしれません。

子猫や子犬は、通常、生後10日後までに目が開き、14日目頃に耳が聞こえるようになります。生後4週間目には歩き始めるのが普通です。幼い動物は暖かくしてやる必要がありますが、暑くなりすぎないように注意することも必要です。

子猫や子犬は、生後1週間は、2～3時間毎に食事を与える必要があります。生後1週間を過ぎると、食事の頻度を徐々に少なくし、食事毎のミルクの量を増やします。生後2週間になる頃には、4時間毎で十分です。獣医師やペットショップに行けば、哺乳瓶や動物用代用ミルク等が手に入るはずです。牛乳（人間の飲むミルク）は、下痢を起こすので決して与えてはいけません。

哺乳瓶のミルクは人肌程度まで暖め、授乳前に手の甲に数滴垂らして温度を確かめます。動物をしっかりと手に持ち、頭を少し上げた状態で、哺乳瓶の乳首を口に入れます。乳首をゆっくりと動かして口に出し入れすると、授乳の刺激になります。動物がミルクを飲まない場合、スポイトによる給餌も考えられますが、その場合でも、むせたりしないように、ゆっくりとミルクを与える必要があります。ミルクが鼻から出てくる場合、ミルクが肺に入りかけていることも考えられます。そのような状態は危険です（おそらく乳首の穴が大きすぎるのでしょう）。給餌が不可能である場合、すぐに獣医師に相談してください。

給餌の後、動物の肛門や生殖器のあたりを湿らせた綿やティッシュペーパーでさすってやり、排尿や排便を促します。下痢の場合などのように、糞を見れば、ミルクが濃すぎないかが分かります。下痢の場合はミルクをもっと薄くし、それでも下痢が続くなら、すぐに獣医師に相談してください。

離乳は生後4週間ごろから始められます。缶詰やドライフードのような市販の発育食品（Hills、Eubanuka、lams等）をミルク代用品に混ぜて、口の回りに塗り付けます。ミルクと固形食品を混ぜたものを皿に入れ、

The First Weeks of Life

...helping those who can not help themselves

by Anne-Marie McGivern

The bottle/milk should be warmed to body temperature and tested by putting a few drops on the back of the hand. The animals should be held firmly with the head slightly elevated and the teat inserted into the mouth. Moving the teat gently in and out of the mouth will stimulate suckling. If the animal will not suckle syringe feeding can be attempted but must be done slowly to avoid choking. If milk comes out of the nostrils, it can be an indication that milk is possibly going into the lungs which can be dangerous (teat hole may be too big). If the animal proves impossible to feed a vet should be consulted immediately.

After feeding the animal must be rubbed around the anal/genital region with damp cotton wool or tissue to stimulate it to urinate and defecate. The faeces will give an indication as to whether the milk formula is too rich, e.g. diarrhoea. If the animal has diarrhoea the formula should be further diluted and if it persists a vet should be consulted.

Weaning can begin at around four weeks of age. Canned and dried formulated brand growth foods (such as Hills, Eubanuka, lams) can be mixed with the milk substitute and smeared around the mouth. Also, dishes of milk/solid mixtures can be placed in the rearing box and as they walk in it, etc and subsequently wash themselves they will learn to eat by themselves. Weaning is always a messy process but looked forward to as sleepless nights should be nearing an end. Animals will still need supplementary feeding with a bottle for the next couple of weeks.

Nearly all puppies and kittens are born with WORMS, in particular round-worms. So, animals should be dewormed and this can start at a very early age depending on the product used e.g. Panacur (through a vet). Repeat worming will be needed during the first few months of life to ensure the animal is worm-free. Vaccinations should be given at eight weeks (around 50/60 days), with a second a month later, both these vaccinations are vital to give full immunity during the first year of life. Then boosters will be required once a year.



illustration: Yoshimi Kawazoe / 川添 好美