

Dubbo Zoo giraffe handrearing protocols
Janet Gamble

BOVIDAE - GIRAFFE

MILK FORMULA

Calf formula, Full Cream Milk Powder @ 150 gms/Lt. with 10 mls Enervol.
Denkovit @ 100 gms/Lt. + 1 ml Vit.A, B, D, E, C. (infant drops) in milk once a day.

BIRTH WEIGHT AVERAGE

‘Gerry’ 63 kgs, ‘Opala’ 79 kgs, ‘Andara’ 63.6 kgs.

TEAT

20 X 2.5 cm Biolac teat.
Horse teats if desperate.

NASOGASTRIC COLOSTRUM AMOUNTS

2 lts (‘Andara’ & ‘Opala’) ? ‘Andara’ appeared full after 3 x 2 lt in 24 hrs.

TIMES FED

Initially 5 times (6, 10 am, 2, 6 & 10 pm.)
X 4 @ 7 – 10 days, X 3 @ 6 weeks, X 2 @ 13 weeks.
X 3 @ 5 weeks, X 2 @ 16 weeks, X 1 @ 25 weeks, (‘Andara’).
X 3 @ 8 weeks, X 2 @ 18 weeks, X 1 @ 26 weeks, (‘Opala’).

WEAN

33 weeks/9 months (ZIDN).
WPZ – 28 weeks (‘Andara’), 29 weeks (‘Opala’).

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Restraint of young giraffe require 3 - 4 people in the first couple of days to bottle or tube feed.

REFERENCES

‘The hand-rearing of a Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) at Taronga Zoo.’ Jane Burgess and David Blyde.
VQC Publications file.
VQC & Nursery (Div 2) Handrearing giraffe files, (‘Opala’ 1996, ‘Andara’ 1998).

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