



BUSH BABY FORMULA MILK, TEATS & ACCESSORIES

BIOLAC Feeding regimes for wombats

It is important to remember that this is a guide only. Every wombat is different. If your wombat shows signs of being hungry earlier you will need to transition earlier. 'Transitioning' is changing from one grade of milk to another. Likewise, if your wombat is content and growing on a particular formula, you might decide to transition to another formula later than recommended below.

It is important to use pre-boiled warm water to make up the milk.

Never use unboiled water from the tap.

For small pinkies under 800g it is strongly recommended to use **pre-boiled bottled water**.

N.B. When making milk it is easier if you weigh the water- **(100 ml = 100 gm.)**

N.B. Joeys should always be fed from a bottle (or syringe when tiny). They should not be given formula to lap. This is not natural for a wombat. Wombats do not lap.

Times for Feeding Baby Wombats.

- While all animals are different, a guide to the frequency of feeds over a 24-hour period is as follows:

N.B. young wombats must be fed at **even intervals** including during the night.

- Up to 250 grams- every 2 to 4 hours.
- 250- 800 grams- every 4 hours.
- 800 grams to 1.8 kg- every 5 hours.
- 1.8 kg to 4 kg- every 6 hours and have access to fresh water, grasses and clean dirt.
- 4 kg to 7 kg- every 8 hours and have access to fresh water, grasses and clean dirt.
- 7 kg until weaning- every 12 hours and have access to fresh water, grasses and clean dirt.
- Wombats must be fed **on time**, even during the night.

How Much To Feed

BIOLAC recommends 10-15% of body weight per day. For example, for a 1kg wombat, that would work out as 100-150ml of milk spread over 5 feeds per day. In general, when using BIOLAC M100 GOS and M100, 12-13% is sufficient.

For a bigger wombat on BIOLAC M150 10% is usually enough as this is a richer milk. During this time wombats should start eating small amounts of grass and dirt. By the time the wombat is 4kg it should be having 300mls of BIOLAC M 200 and this does not increase (as long as the wombat begins to eat sufficient grass to enable it to satisfy its hunger and to put on sufficient weight).

Transition Times

Changing from one grade (strength) of milk to another should take many days.

You must transition slowly.

- **BIOLAC recommends** this guide to transition times:

From 0- 300 gm feed *BIOLAC* M100 GOS (as long as the pinky does not become too hot as the GOS helps retain body heat. In this case switch to M100)

From 300 gm to about 1.8 kg-2kg feed *BIOLAC* M100. (There is no need to transition)

From about 1.8kg-2kg slowly begin the change from *BIOLAC* M100 to *BIOLAC* M150. Feed *BIOLAC* M150 until the wombat weighs about 3.5kg-4kg. (Always transition slowly from one milk to the next.)

From about 4kg until weaning, feed *BIOLAC* M200---about 300ml.

N.B. This is a general guide only. All wombats are different. Some wombats transition easily. Others react badly so the transition process takes longer.

Detailed example of the transition from M150 to M200.

N.B. This is an example only; all wombats are different.

N.B. All transitions follow the same procedure.

(N.B. *BIOLAC* is a very "forgiving" milk so it is possible to vary amounts slightly for a short period of time).

Increase the amount of *BIOLAC* M150 to 20 gm per 100 ml (instead of the 18 gm you have been using). Start the amount of *BIOLAC* M200 at 20 gm per 100 ml (instead of the normal 24 gm to which you will gradually increase).

First mix- weigh 5 gm of *BIOLAC* M200 ($\frac{1}{4}$ of 20 gm), add 15 gm of *BIOLAC* M150 ($\frac{3}{4}$ of 20 gm), then make up to 100 ml by adding pre-boiled warm water (you can weigh it-100 gm equals 100 ml). Feed your wombat this mix for 3-5 days. If no adverse reaction occurs, proceed to the second mix.

Second mix- weigh 10 gm of *BIOLAC* M200 and 10 gm of *BIOLAC* M150 (half and half). Make up to 100 ml by adding pre-boiled warm water. Feed your wombat this mix for 3- 5 days. If no adverse reaction occurs, proceed to the third mix.

Third mix- weigh 15 gm of *BIOLAC* M200 and 5 gm of *BIOLAC* M150 ($\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$). Make up to 100ml by adding pre-boiled warm water. Feed this mix for 3- 5 days. If no adverse reaction occurs, go to fourth mix.

Fourth mix- weigh 20 gm of *BIOLAC* M200. Make up to 100 ml by adding pre-boiled warm water. Feed this mix for 3-5 days.

Gradually increase the amount of milk powder per 100ml over the next few days (if the wombat shows no adverse reaction) until you reach the recommended correct amount of 24 gm per 100ml.

This can vary a bit. If diarrhoea or constipation occurs, or the wombat becomes “gassy”, during transition it would be necessary to extend the number of days on each mixture until the wombat’s digestion gets used to the change. For some wombats it takes weeks. Amounts follow the 10- 15% of body weight rule.

N.B. It is important, however, to note that the 10% to 15% only applies until the time a joey starts eating grass- at about 3 kg, which would be about the weight it would emerge from the mother’s pouch. From this point onwards, milk quantities of BIOLAC remain constant; approximately 300 ml of BIOLAC M200 spread over 4 feeds per day. Never feed more than 100 ml per feed as more than this is too much for a small wombat’s stomach to hold comfortably (in the mother they drink small amounts often). Also, by this weight, a wombat should be starting to eat grass. If it is full of milk, it will not be hungry and will not eat enough grass.

As they get older

From 3 kg- the wombat should be put out on grass for short periods (supervised at all times) to experiment with grazing and eating dirt.

The maximum amount of formula for *BIOLAC M200* is 300 ml spread over 4 feeds at 3 kg- then 3 feeds of no more than 100 ml at 4 to 7 kg. Wombats should, by this time, be eating grass, both grazing and handpicked. A bowl of fresh, clean water should be available to the animal at all times. N.B. small wombats usually do not drink a lot of water. Grass also provides water. Access to clean dirt should be available at all times.

From about 6- 7 kg, a small amount of supplementary food could be offered such as *Economix*, *Extra Cool*, oaten hay – although this is not necessary if grass supply is plentiful. Water must be available at all times.

**Grass should always be the main food- at least approximately 80% of total diet.

If supplementary food is used, care should be taken not to make the wombat dependent on it, especially when in ‘pre- release’, as this food will not be available in the wild.

Other natural foods should be offered such as bark, logs, charcoal logs etc.

As the wombat eats more and more grass, the amount of formula needed declines. By about 7 kg a wombat should be eating copious amounts of grass so only 2 feeds of 100 ml each of *BIOLAC M 200* (total daily amount 200 ml) should be offered. Usually, the wombat determines its own needs and will wean itself to one bottle and will eventually give it up altogether.

Care should be taken with a “sooky” wombat who just loves the cuddles and the milk and wants to have a bottle forever- “tough love” may be necessary to wean him/ her, just as mum would do.

In summary:

A guide for feeding wombats formula is as follows;

- From 0 to 300 gm- formula only - *BIOLAC M100 GOS*
- From 300 gm to 1.8 kg-2kg– formula only- *BIOLAC M100*
- From about 1.8 kg-2 kg to 3.5- 4 kg- formula - *BIOLAC M150* - transitioning formulas
- From about 3kg- introduce small amounts of grass and dirt
- From about 4kg until weaning- *BIOLAC M200*
- Transition example (from *BIOLAC M100* to *BIOLAC M150*) by mixing:

- $\frac{1}{4}$ of M150 and $\frac{3}{4}$ M100 for about 3- 5 days.
- Then $\frac{1}{2}$ M150 and $\frac{1}{2}$ M100 for 3- 5 days
- Then $\frac{3}{4}$ M150 and $\frac{1}{4}$ M100 for 3- 5 days.
- All transitions follow the same procedure

Please feel free to contact us if you need any further assistance.

Liesa and Ken Wenham.

We at BIOLAC would like to thank you for caring for our Australian Native Animals.