

Orphaned Pups

If your African Pygmy Dormice pups are abandoned or something has happened to their mother, then you may have to attempt hand rearing.

This is recommended for experienced keepers/breeders.

Unfortunately orphaned Dormice, like normal mice, are extremely difficult to handle. Raising orphan Dormice pups can be very hard, and the chances of survival are very very low and nearly impossible if under one week.

The following tips should not be considered a substitute for contacting your local breeder. Use goat milk, and a nylon paint brush for your orphan Dormice pups. If the litter is very young then it could cause bloat. Warm a small amount of milk in hot water. DO NOT Microwave!!

Initially the feeding is to take place every 2 hours throughout the entire day. Use a moistened cotton bud to stimulate the anus after feeding and encourage them to defecate. This is very important, as they will not have the ability to do this for themselves. The mother Dormouse would normally lick their anus to teach them this.

In two weeks, you can introduce fresh foods. Mushy banana is a good starting point, after feeding milk soften banana between your fingers and let them sniff and attempt to lap it up. If they refuse, try mixing a tiny amount of banana into the milk. If banana is refused, other fruit can be attempted, but steer clear of anything strongly acidic.

In three weeks they should be trying more solids. If they are not, just reduce the milk portions to every 4 hours. Try adding some millet seeds and honey/syrup/pollen mix (Mentioned in the Diet post) to a small shallow dish, and some live or dried mealworms in another.

At four weeks they can have the full feed in a dish, and feed only twice a day with milk. Continue until they refuse, likely stopping at around 6 weeks.

In 7 weeks congratulations you did it!