

BRUSHTAIL POSSUMS

AS WITH ALL ANIMALS-HUMANS – THIS IS A REFERENCE GUIDE ONLY

WEIGHT	AGE	DEVELOPMENT	DIET	HOUSING
60 to 100 grams	85 TO 105 days	Unfurred to colouring, eyes closed, faecal – like custard	FEEDS MUST BE EVERY TWO HOURS AROUND THE CLOCK , so joey doesn't suffer from hypoglycemia. Bottle or tube feed appropriate milk only. "Toilet" before or after each feed.	Humid crib or "hot box" essential. Pouches to be "natural fabric only (cotton, flannelette) & hang suspended. Temp to be very accurate & constant 32 C.
100 to 150 grams	85 to 115 days	Eyes opening, fur coming through, faecal – thick custard. Joey may start to "explore" house".	Feed milk every 3 hours <u>around the clock</u> . Bottle feed with possum teat. "Toilet" as above. Have fresh water available, and fresh young native leaf tips.	Temp now 30 C. Natural fiber pouches "hanging" in carry basket or rescue carrier.
150 to 200 grams	115 to 125 days	Soft fine fur, teething, more exploring at night. Faeces – darker and formed.	Bottle feed milk 4 hourly <u>around the clock</u> . "Toilet" as above Have fresh water available, young native leaf & flowers. Can supplement with a <u>small amount</u> of fruit & vegies.	Temp 28 C. Hanging pouches as above. Branches or various sizes & species for exploring & tasting. Cotton or jute rope for climbing. Cocky cage size house.
200 to 300 grams	125 to 135 days	Fur can get quite thick at this stage. Soft formed faecal pellets. Very active at night.	Bottle feed <u>every 6 hours</u> . "Toilet" as above As above for everything else.	Heat not necessary unless very cold at night. Housing as above.
300 to 500 grams	135 to 160 days	Thick, dense fur. Pellets dark & firm.	Milk (small bowl) <u>every 8 hours</u> . "Toilet" if necessary. Other food as above.	Move to aviary suitable to last until release. Have "nest boxes" high up for sleeping. Reduce human contact. Have all food & water high in aviary.
500 to 700 grams	160 to 185 days	"Back baby" in wild.	Milk – two feeds daily. Food as above plus gum nuts. Reduce any food that is not "native".	As above.
700 to 900 grams	185 to 200 days	Becoming independent.	Milk – reduce to 1 feed daily. Native food (best picked from release site).	NO human contact.
900 to 1100 grams	200 to 300 days	Will be ready for release in this age group.	Native food from release site ONLY.	For "soft release" attach a rope from high on aviary to trees.

Milk: Biolac, Woombaroo or Divetalac. Please make up milk as per Manufactures Directions. Fruit & Vegies: Apple, banana, carrot, cherries, corn on the cob, cucumber, grapes, kiwi fruit (peeled), lychees, melon, mango, nectarines, paw paw, peaches, pumpkin (seeds too), spinach, gold sweet potato, zucchini.

GROWTH CHART BY TERRI EATHER – WILDLIFE RESCUE & CARE Ph 0412 561215

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