Specialist Surgery
Specialist Medicine

24hr Emergency Centre Call 9092 0400 24hrs

Veterinary Referral Centre

Level 1, 26 Robertson Street, Kensington VIC 3031

#### **NUTRITION FOR YOUR PUPPIES**

Level 1, 26 Robertson St Kensington 3031 VIC Australia T (03) 9092 0400 F (03) 9376 8567 info@advancedvetcare.com.au

ABN 29 814 586 915

### What you require to feed them

You will need to make up the animalac milk formula to feed the puppies, you must not use any other milk supplement only the one provided. It is important that you make it to the correct consistency otherwise your puppy may develop diarrhoea.

You will need to use the nursing bottle provided, there is already a small hole pricked in the top of the teat you do not need to make this hole any bigger as the suckling action from the puppies is enough to pass the milk through.

# How to make up the formula

If you are unsure of how to make up the formula there is a feeding guide on the tin. As mentioned earlier is it important to make it to the correct strength. For example if you weigh the puppies and they weigh 100g, this means they require a minimum of 20ml of milk per day. This amount of 20ml can be subdivided into several meals throughout a 24 hour period. If the pups want to eat more than 20 ml within a day then this is not a problem. The milk must be pre-warmed to room temperature prior to feeding the pups. This is best done by placing the bottle in a bowl of hot water. The temperature of the milk can be checked by putting a bit on your wrist to make sure it's not too hot. Left over milk must be stored in the fridge. The amount of milk needed changes as the puppies' gain weight, for example once they weigh 150 g they will require a minimum of 30 ml of milk a day. It is important to weigh the puppies every few days to make sure that they are getting enough food.

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## How to feed the pups

In one hand hold a pup preferably on your knee or a table and in the other hand the bottle. Tilt the pup's mouth up and introduce the teat into its mouth. The bottle is held at an angle upside down. The pups should not have a problem suckling on the teat.

## When to start introducing solid feed into the pups diet (weaning)

Around 3-4 weeks old, you can start to introduce very soft tinned puppy food and water. Still offer milk in the initial stages. Once they are comfortable and gaining weight on solid food, you can discontinue the milk. Dry food should be introduced after 5-6 weeks of age.

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