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ORPHANED FOALS:

The following is a regime for treating orphaned foals -

Option 1:

Using a Foster mother - larger breeds eg. Draught horses are better

- A goat on a raised platform so foal can suck

Option 2:

Hand rearing - commercial milk replacer is best (Wombaroo)

- can use low fat cows milk with 30g lactose and 10g dicalcium phosphate powder added per 1000ml milk
- can be taught to drink from bucket at 3 days old
- milk bucket should be at foal chest height, shallow and light coloured

Milk temperature:

- 37 ° C for first 2 days (should feel just warm on inside of wrist)
- From day 2, lower to room temperature (20-25 degrees C °) in preparation for bucket feeding

FEEDING GUIDELINES FOR AVERAGE SIZED 45KG FOAL

AGE	VOLUME	FEEDING INTERVALS
First 12-16hrs	3-5L colostrum or colostrum replacer	
First 2 days	1L milk	3 hourly
Day 3-7 (bucket)	2L milk	4 hourly from 6am-10pm (total of 5 feeds)
7-14 days	2.5L milk 1kg creep feed in shallow dish near milk bucket	4 hourly (5 feeds) Daily
14-21 days	4L milk 1.5kg creep feed	6 hourly (4 feeds) Daily
21days -8 WKS	Increase TOTAL daily volume milk by 1L per week Unlimited creep feed	8 hourly (3 feeds)

8WKS-WEANING (6mths)	10L milk Reduce by 1L per feed per week to wean Ad lib creep feed Access to grazing if possible	12 hourly (2 feeds)
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Creep feed should contain 16-18% crude protein.

If diarrhoea occurs from milk overload (white, pasty consistency), reduce milk to half volume for 2 feeds, gradually increase to full volume over 24-36hrs.

Make any feed changes gradual over 2-3 days.

Provide fresh water at all times.

Give foal a companion- sheep or goat, and ensure has adequate shelter.

In most cases orphaned foals require a blood test after 24hrs of age to ensure adequate colostral transfer, your vet can perform this.

If foal becomes lethargic, develops diarrhoea, swollen joints, colic or stops eating or drinking at any stage contact your vet.