

Dubbo Zoo giraffe handrearing protocols  
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## **BOVIDAE - GIRAFFE**

### **MILK FORMULA**

Calf formula, Full Cream Milk Powder @ 150 gms/Lt. with 10 mls Enervol.  
Denkovit @ 100 gms/Lt. + 1 ml Vit.A, B, D, E, C. (infant drops) in milk once a day.

### **BIRTH WEIGHT AVERAGE**

‘Gerry’ 63 kgs, ‘Opala’ 79 kgs, ‘Andara’ 63.6 kgs.

### **TEAT**

20 X 2.5 cm Biolac teat.  
Horse teats if desperate.

### **NASOGASTRIC COLOSTRUM AMOUNTS**

2 lts (‘Andara’ & ‘Opala’) ? ‘Andara’ appeared full after 3 x 2 lt in 24 hrs.

### **TIMES FED**

Initially 5 times (6, 10 am, 2, 6 & 10 pm.)  
X 4 @ 7 – 10 days, X 3 @ 6 weeks, X 2 @ 13 weeks.  
X 3 @ 5 weeks, X 2 @ 16 weeks, X 1 @ 25 weeks, (‘Andara’).  
X 3 @ 8 weeks, X 2 @ 18 weeks, X 1 @ 26 weeks, (‘Opala’).

### **WEAN**

33 weeks/9 months (ZIDN).  
WPZ – 28 weeks (‘Andara’), 29 weeks (‘Opala’).

### **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED**

Restraint of young giraffe require 3 - 4 people in the first couple of days to bottle or tube feed.

### **REFERENCES**

‘The hand-rearing of a Giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis*) at Taronga Zoo.’ Jane Burgess and David Blyde.  
VQC Publications file.  
VQC & Nursery (Div 2) Handrearing giraffe files, (‘Opala’ 1996, ‘Andara’ 1998).

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