

HOW TO TUBE FEED A KID

Start with a 50cc syringe with a irrigation tip, a red rubber catheter (vet or catalog company). Get ready: 1 cup warm water, and the product you intend to tube feed. Measure the kid from nose to ear, to base of neck, mark the tube.

Restrain the kid between your legs while seated. Insert the tube on the left side of the mouth, then tip the head down, so that the chin is touching the neck. Insert the tube to the mark.

Check: Put the end of the tube in the cup of water. There should be no bubbles when the kid breathes, or cries. If bubbles are seen, pull out and start over. If there are no bubbles during breathing, check for rumen smells. A newborn that has not nursed will have no odor at all.

Insert the tip of the syringe into the feeding tube, and pour 5cc of the water in the syringe. If there is no respiratory distress, or coughing, you are in the esophagus. Pour product to be fed into the syringe. Do NOT force the liquid in, allow it to gravity flow. If it does not flow, rotate the tube a bit as the lumen of the tube may be against the stomach wall. When finished, pour 5cc more water into the syringe to rinse the tube. Crimp the tube to prevent milk or water from entering the trachea as you withdraw the tube. Be sure product to be fed is warm: body temp is 102-103, so be sure milk is 105 degrees at least. A chilled kid needs warming, not cold milk.

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