

STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT AND BASIC CARE GUIDE FOR CHIPMUNKS

| AGE (weeks) | DESCRIPTION | FEEDING SCHEDULE | HOUSING | SPECIAL CARE |
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| Birth - 1 week | 1.5 to 2 inches long No fur, eyes closed | Formula: Very young chips take tiny amounts at each feed, and it is extremely important to maintain the intake of nourishment. Feed drop wise every 3 hrs or 6 times per day (ie. 7:30, 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30) | A cardboard box animal carrier lined with several layers of soft cloth/flannel that doesn't have any holes or hanging threads. Should be in a warm room away from drafts & noise. Change bedding twice daily. Do not use newspaper or wood chips for bedding, ink is toxic, and the chips will get wet with urine, use towels. | Supplemental heat source - hot water bottle wrapped in toweling for warmth. MAKE SURE THAT THE BOTTLE DOESN'T LEAK! Be sure babies are fully awake before feeding. Stimulate babies after each feeding - rub genital area with a wet finger or Q-tip until there is a bowel movement and/or urination. |
| 1 - 2 weeks | Stripes appear, eyes still closed, becoming active | Formula: 1-2 mls every 3 hours or 6 times per day | Same as above | Same as above |

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| 2 - 3 weeks | Color pattern fully developed, eyes closed, looks like a miniature adult | Formula: 2-3 mls, every 3 1/2 hours, 5 times per day (ie. 7:30, 11:00, 2:30, 6:00, 9:30) | Same as above | Same as above |
| 3 - 4 weeks | Eyes and ears open | <p>Formula: 3-4 mls, every four hours or 4 times per day. (ie. 9, 1, 5, 9).</p> <p>Give a few pieces of rodent chow or nutriblock cut very small and a separate dish of fruit: apple, banana, and grape</p> | <p>A medium pet carrier should be used as chipmunks become more mobile. Ensure front grate holes if too large are covered with ½ “ welded wire mesh.</p> <p>Don't use a cardboard box as they will chew their way out.</p> <p>Change bedding twice daily</p> | <p>Remove heat source gradually (e.g., several hrs a day, remove night heat last).</p> <p>Monitor chipmunks; if not maintaining body heat reintroduce external heat source.</p> |

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| <p>4 - 5 weeks</p> | <p>Becoming increasingly active</p> | <p>Formula: 4-5 mls, every 5 hours, three times per day (ie. 9, 2, 7).</p> <p>Give small dish of rodent chow and unsalted striped sunflower seeds and separate dish of fruit</p> | <p>Teething materials should be provided (e.g., twigs varying length & diameter)</p> | <p>Rodent lab chow is crucial to the animals' good health & development. If chow is introduced as teething material chipmunks will acquire taste for it & accept as staple of their diet once weaned.</p> |
| <p>5-6 weeks</p> | | <p>Formula: 4-5 mls twice a day. (ie. 9, 5).</p> <p>Give rodent chow, sunflower seeds, and peanuts and separate dish of fruit as well as veggies: yam, broccoli, spinach</p> | <p>Same as above</p> | <p>Same as above</p> |

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| 6-7 weeks | | <p>Formula: 4-5 mls, one time a day.</p> <p>Give rodent chow, sunflower seeds, peanuts, and cracked walnut as well as fruit and veggies</p> | Same as above | Same as above |
| 7-8 weeks | Thick coat and VERY active and swift | Free choice of 15% lab chow, 50% nuts including sunflower seeds, peanuts, hard shell nuts and 35% fruit and veggies. Also provide fresh branches, leaves, and pine cones | Move to a new cage (2ft x 4ft x 4ft);large enough to provide plenty of exercise with a nesting box (1ft x 1ft) | <p>Supply a variety of natural materials in cage, ie leaves still attached to boughs and twigs.</p> <p>Release when 9-10 weeks old.</p> |