STAGES OF DEVELOPMENT AND BASIC CARE GUIDE FOR CHIPMUNKS

AGE (weeks)	FEEDING SCHEDULE	HOUSING	SPECIAL CARE
Birth - 1 week 1.5-2 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	Cardboard box or animal carrier lined with layers of cloth/flannel (no holes or threads). Place away from drafts & noise. Change bedding twice daily. Do not use newspaper or wood chips (toxic and will cause issues).	Use hot water bottle for heat, wrap in towel, make sure it does not leak. Make sure babies are awake before feeding and stimulate after feeding (rub genital area with wet finger or Q-tip until bowel movement/urination occurs.
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
2 - 3 weeks Color pattern fully developed, eyes closed, looks like a miniature adult	**Formula:** 2-3 mls, every 3.5 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	**Formula:** 3-4 mls, every 4 hours or 4 times per day. - ie. 9, 1, 5, 9 Give a few pieces of rodent chow or nutriblock cut very small and a separate dish of fruit (apple, banana, & grape)	Use medium pet carriers as they get more mobile. Ensure front gate holes are small enough to prevent escape, if not cover with ½ inch welded wire mesh. Do not use cardboard. Change bedding twice a day.	Remove heat source gradually (e.g., several hrs a day, remove night heat last. Monitor chipmunks; if not maintaining body heat, reintroduce external heat source.

4 - 5 weeks Becoming increasingly active	**Formula:** 4-5 mls, every 5 hours, three times per day - ie. 9, 2, 7 Give small dish of rodent chow and unsalted striped sunflower seeds and separate dish of fruit	Teething materials should be provided - e.g., twigs varying length & diameter	Rodent lab chow is crucial to the animals' good health & development. If chow introduced as teething material chipmunks will acquire taste for it & accept it as staple of their diet once weaned.
5-6 weeks	**Formula:** 4-5 mls twice a day. - ie. 9, 5 Give rodent chow, sunflower seeds, and peanuts and separate dish of fruit as well as veggies: - yam, broccoli, spinach	Same as above	Same as above
6-7 weeks	**Formula:** 4-5 mls, one time a day. Give rodent chow, sunflower seeds, peanuts, and cracked walnut, fruit and veggies.	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. 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)	Supply a variety of natural materials in cage - ie. leaves attached to boughs and twigs Release when 9-10 weeks old.