# SKUNK DEVELOPMENT AND CARE GUIDE

| AGE (weeks) | FEEDING | STIMULATION | HOUSING | SPECIAL CARE |
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| **Birth**<br>30-35g<br>- nearly naked<br>- fine hair (black & white pattern)<br>- eyes & ears are sealed | **2 - 2.5 mls Formula**<br><br>**5- 6 times per day.** | Stimulate genital area before and after feeding to induce elimination.<br>- use a q-tip or the tip of finger dipped in warm water. | House in cardboard box lined with ravel free, soft blankets and hot water bottle. Keep away from drafts. | **Handling:** gently hold tail between its legs, then it can not spray. Do not startle.<br><br>Wrap in soft towel when removed from box (protects from drafts).<br><br>Watch for diarrhea (stool may become soft and yellow from formula). |
| **1 week**<br>~50-75g<br>- slightly furred<br>- skin becoming pigmented | **4-6 mls. Formula**<br><br>**5 - 6 times per day** | Same as above | Same as above | Wrap in towel while feeding. |
| **2 weeks**<br>- weight 125g<br>- fully furred<br>- eyes still closed | **8-10 mls. Formula**<br><br>**4 times per day** | Same as above | Same as above | Wrap in towel while feeding.<br><br>Diarrhea from formula should no longer occur, call vet if it is occurring |
| **3 weeks**<br>- eyes & ears open | **10-15 mls. Formula**<br><br>**4 times per day** | Same as above | Move into large pet carrier, continue to provide towels/blankets | Wrap in towel while feeding. |
| **4 weeks**<br>- weight 340g<br>- attempting to walk on short legs | **15-20 mls. Formula**<br><br>**4 times per day** | Same as above | Same as above. | Give dry dog kibble (small size for small dogs), moisten with water. Provide separate water bowl. Refresh both bowls morning and night. |

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| | | | Eliminate artificial heat source. | - Do not use puppy or kitten kibble (they are too high in protein, can cause diseases for skunks) |
| **5 weeks**<br>- very playful, steadier on legs | **20-25 mls. Formula**<br><br>**3 times per day** | Should be eliminated on its own. | Same as above | Continue with dog kibble (increase as needed)<br><br>Introduce natural foods:<br>- Nuts, fruit, cooked meat, veggies, eggs, and occasionally mealworms and crickets<br>These are critical to have a balance diet.<br><br>If teeth are developed, stop moistening dog kibble. |
| **6 weeks** | **30-35 mls. Formula**<br><br>**1-2 times per day** | Same as above | Same as above | Same as above |
| **7 weeks**<br>- fully weaned | **30-35 mls. Formula**<br><br>**1-2 times per day** | Same as above | Move skunks to large outdoor cage. They require secure nesting box and sand box (change frequently) | Require very little formula, should eat solids consistently.<br><br>Wean formula during 7th week.<br><br>See Supplements outlined under **Feeding.** |