

The Five Stages of Progress

UNDERSTANDING THE FIVE STAGES OF PROGRESS IS IMPORTANT!

To simulate as closely as possible the natural progression in the pouch and give joey maximum chance of survival these stages act as a good general guideline

STAGE 1 - FURLESS

The joey is permanently in a pouch.

Stable heat 32° - 34° is important.

Use baby lotion or similar to keep joey's skin in good condition. Be aware that the main reason for excessive dryness or flaking peeling layers of skin is over heating! A couple of minutes of "sunkicks" on a warm day is great for muscle development.

Feeding every 4 hours, adding a few drops of yoghurt once a day to its milk to assist in the promotion of stomach flora. Faeces are mustard colour and toothpaste like.

STAGE 2 - FINE FUR (eyes open, can stand)

EGK (Eastern Grey Kangaroo) 7 months/ most wallabies 5-6 months.

The joey starts to leave the pouch for short periods (a few minutes) to get a bit of exercise. Take it in its pouch outside-and sit with it on the grass. Joey will stick its head out of the pouch, sniff ground and grass and be not at all impressed.

Close body contact gives it the security it needs, and of course all the common sense things like not turning its face into the sun etc. apply.

Give it access to dirt and grass with roots attached at all times.

Maintain warmth at about 28° - 32°.

Add yoghurt to food once a day.

Should start forming pellets.

STAGE 3 - THICK FUR

FIRST OUT OF POUCH: EGK 8 - 10 months most wallabies 6 - 7 months.

It is important for joey to be out of its pouch and in the sun for at least 1 to 2 hours per day.

It has to have access to all types of grasses (just grazing on the backyard is not sufficient) and be a big enough area to get plenty of exercise to build up muscle tone.

Feed 4 times a day.

Even though it is always important to know the volume of milk joey requires at a certain weight and age, this is the stage when it is most tempting to over-feed joey and cause it and yourself innumerable problems.

STAGE 4 - TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE

Ideally it is out of the pouch most of the day.

Even though he still gets 3 feeds a day, two of these he will now lap and he only gets his beloved bottle once a day.

Access to a large variety of grasses, lucerne, native shrubs etc. is now very important.

END OF POUCH LIFE: EGK 11 months/ most wallabies 8 - 9 months.

STAGE 5 - WEANING: EGK 12 months/ most wallabies 10-11 months

Joey is out quite late at night.

Reduce milk to 2 times a day and encourage joey to lap water. People, dog and car-proofing is important, Joey should have a healthy respect for all of them.

DISPERSAL: EGK 18 months/ wallabies 10-14 months.