

# Critical Care Feeding Instructions

Your Veterinarian has recommended that you supplement your pet's diet with Critical Care. Now What?

- First and foremost, follow your veterinarian's directions on how much and how often to feed.
- They should have provided you with directions for measurements and techniques to feed
  - But if you need a bit more direction, this is the place for you!

## Preparing your slurry

- Take the amount of Critical Care that your veterinarian directed you (based on your pet's weight) and mix it with luke warm water (usually a 1:1 or 1:2 ratio of powder: water). It will make a smoothie or paste consistency.
- This is the minimum number of calories your pet needs in one day if they are not eating anything else.
- Do not attempt to feed the entire amount at one time. You will feed in 4-6 feedings spread out over 24 hours
  - Before each feeding, warm up the slurry to a luke warm temperature, making sure to test the temperature on your inner wrist prior to feeding
  - Warm by running a syringe of the slurry under warm water or placing the slurry in a bowl and floating that into a bowl of warm water
  - Do not microwave the slurry: this may make extreme hot spots and potentially burn your pet

## Storing your slurry

- Keep your excess slurry in an air tight container in the fridge to slow bacterial growth
- Discard any unused portion after 24 hours

## Feeding your pet

- Syringe feeding
  - Offer your pet the syringe and they may take it themselves, with you slowly pushing the plunger of the syringe as they eat
  - Otherwise, wrap your pet in a towel and carefully give very small amounts at a time by mouth until the feeding is done
  - For guinea pigs and rabbits, insert the tip of the syringe at the side of the mouth to get behind the incisors (front teeth).
- BUT. If your pet is willing they may take it via spoon, bowl, or placed on favorite treats

For more detailed guidelines, visit [the manufacturer's site \(https://www.oxbowaustralia.com/critical-care-information-for-pet-owners/\)](https://www.oxbowaustralia.com/critical-care-information-for-pet-owners/)