

The following formula has been utilized with considerable success in raising orphaned rabbits, and it is relatively inexpensive and easy to prepare.

MATERIALS NEEDED

Dropper or 1 cc syringe (for kits under 2 weeks of age)

Bottle with a nipple (for kits 2 weeks and older)

Thermometer

Small towel or cloth

Milk replacement

MILK REPLACEMENT FORMULA FOR

RABBITS

2 cups of 2% milk (low fat milk)

2 egg yolks

2 Tbsp powdered milk

2 Tbsp. corn syrup

1 tsp. bone meal

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix the ingredients thoroughly and place this formula in the refrigerator.

2. Take out only a small portion, approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the formula at the time, for each feeding.

3. Using the thermometer and a heating source, heat the milk replacement to 32°C ($\sim 90^{\circ}\text{F}$).

NB: DO NOT feed this milk at a higher temperature, because you will burn the kit(s) fragile digestive system!



MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

RABBIT NUTRITION

For more information contact the Poultry
Extension Officer in your region

Manzini; 25059147/8/9

Mankayane; 25388255

Lubombo; 23435630

Hhohho South; 24048848

Hhohho North; 24371756

Shiselweni; 22078455



Department of Veterinary and Livestock Services



RABBIT NUTRITION

Rabbits are **herbivores** (plant eaters) and are considered grazers, in that they eat continuously.

Rabbit feeds

Hay

- Daily basal diet; 80% hay, 15% fresh vegetables and 5% pellets.
- Feed unlimited, high-quality grass hay.
- Grass hay is high in fibre, which is critical in maintaining a rabbit's healthy digestive tract.

Rabbit Pellets

Age	Amount of feed per rabbit per day
Pregnant	187g
Lactating	<i>Ad-libitum</i>
Weaners	<i>Ad-libitum</i>
6 weeks	50g
3-4months	100g
4-5months	120g
Adults 3.6kg	100g
Pregnant Doe 3.6kg	150g
Adults	120-140g
Bucks (not mating)	75g



Figure1; Rabbits eating hay



Figure2; Rabbit pellets



Figure 3; Eragrostis and Panicum grass

List of greens that rabbits eat in different quantities

Can be eaten	Can be eaten in small quantities	Cannot be eaten
Grass; Panicum, Eragrostis, kikuyu	Signal grass	Lucerne (alfafa)
Fruits	Apples, Pears and berries	Avocadoes
Vegetables; beetroot leaves, spinach, carrot tops, broccoli	Cabbages	Lettuce
Roots and tubers	Sweet potatoes, potatoes and carrots	

Water requirements

- Fresh water should be available 24 hours a day.
- Water should be changed every day and the bottle cleaned with dish soap once per week.

Feeding orphan bunnies/kits



Figure 4; feeding bunnies