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Palliative Care Shake Formula for Virginia Opossums

AT A GLANCE

Below is an adjustable recipe that can be tried with Virginia Opossums who have become resistant to eating standard food items during palliative and recuperative care.

This formula is not intended to provide complete, balanced nutrition but has often been used successfully to good effect by the author and associates.

Ingredients and proportions can be adjusted to the specific tastes of the patient in need and can also be used as a base for adding other items suitable for mixing.

Recipe (makes several to dozens of servings depending upon the size of the Virginia opossum):

- ¾ cup Ensure® nutritional shake
- 1 ml Pet-Tinic® nutritional supplement for dogs and cats
- 1 quail egg
- ⅓ cup formula
 - The author uses Esbilac Puppy Milk Replacer, mixed at a ratio of 1 part powder to 3 parts water.
 - Appropriate Fox Valley Nutrition formulations can also be used in place of Esbilac.
 - Always check recent quality control news for both manufacturers to ensure safe use.
- Purina Hydra Care, diluted Pedialyte®, and/or plain water can be added to fight dehydration.

Shake and serve. The consistency as denoted above is suitable for syringe-feeding.

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“Old Man” Matti, the first beneficiary of this recipe.

He was rescued after sustaining severe frostbite, losing some toes and some of his tail. He was treated for severely infected facial wounds as well as external and gastrointestinal parasites. He had significant head trauma, visual impairment, and besnoitiosis, but he maintained the very sweetest of dispositions.