

# the Science of Sloths

## Neonate Care Intake

Evidence-Informed Care for *Choloepus* Neonates  
Grounded in Science. Driven by welfare.

---



## Neonate Intake & Initial Assessment

House Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Studbook # Accession # House ID \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_

Species:  *Choloepus hoffmanni*  *Choloepus didactylus*

Date of Birth (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex:  Male  Female  Unknown

Birth Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ g

Current Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ g

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Remove institutional names — use internal ID if needed)*

Prior known veterinary care:  Yes  No Access to notes?  Yes  No

Wild-caught?  Yes  No Add exporter or importer if known \_\_\_\_\_

Country of origin \_\_\_\_\_

Dam Present:  Yes  No Date Separated from Dam: \_\_\_\_\_

**Age at Separation:** \_\_\_\_\_ days/months or if unknown, est. age \_\_\_\_\_

**Has an introduction been attempted or will it be?**  Yes  No

**Notes/plans regarding introduction/dams etc**

---

**Condition at Intake:**

---

---

---

---

## **Initial Neonatal Assessment**

**Body Temperature:** \_\_\_\_\_ °F / °C

**Hydration Status:**

- Normal
- Mild dehydration
- Moderate dehydration
- Severe dehydration

**Respiration:**

- Normal
- Labored
- Weak

**Behavioral Status:**

- Responsive
- Quiet but alert
- Weak
- Non-responsive

**Umbilicus Condition:**

---

---

---

## Thermal Support

**Target Temperature Range:**

75–85°F (24–29°C) with gradient access

**Heat Source Used:**

- Incubator
- Radiant heat
- Heated enclosure
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Temperature Monitoring Interval:**

- Continuous
- Every \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

**Notes:**

---

---

---

## Feeding Plan

**Feeding Method:**

- Dam nursing
- Supplemental feeding
- Hand-rearing

**Formula Type:**

---

**Feeding Volume:**

\_\_\_\_\_ mL per feeding

**Feeding Frequency:**

Every \_\_\_\_\_ hours

**Feeding Position:**

- Upright
- Supported ventrally
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

---

---

---

**Elimination Monitoring**

**Urination Observed:**

- Yes  No

**Defecation Observed:**

- Yes  No

**Frequency:**

---

**Description:**

---

---

---

# Weight Monitoring

## Daily Weight Log

Date	Weight (g)	Change	Notes

---

# Behavioral Monitoring

## Activity Observations:

---

---

## Grip Strength:

- Strong
- Moderate
- Weak

## Vocalization:

- None
- Occasional
- Frequent

## Notes:

---

# Medical Observations

Clinical Concerns:

---

---

Treatments Administered:

---

---

Veterinary Consultation:

Yes  No

---

## Daily Neonate Care Checklist

- Temperature verified
- Hydration assessed
- Feeding completed
- Weight recorded
- Elimination monitored
- Behavior assessed
- Equipment checked
- Notes recorded

---

## Neonate Care Notes

---

---

***Science of Sloths***

**Educated Zookeeper, LLC**

Evidence-Based Care | Global Collaboration | Welfare-Driven Practice

## Science of Sloths

### Educated Zookeeper, LLC

Evidence-Based Care | Global Collaboration |  
Welfare-Driven Practice



## Weeks 1–4

Feed approximately 12 times daily, including overnight

- Offer **5–10 mL goat's milk** every **2–3 hours**, including overnight
- Gradually decrease overnight feedings toward the end of Week 4
- Offer fluids as needed by syringe if indicated

## Weeks 4–8

Feed 6 times daily; gradually decrease overnight feeds

- Offer **8–15 mL goat's milk** per feeding
- 

## Weeks 5–6

Begin gradual introduction of solids

- Introduce **one new vegetable each week**, ideally guided by fecal output
  - Vegetables may include:
    - Carrots
    - Squash
    - Zucchini
  - Initial solids should be **softened or steamed vegetables**
-

## Beyond Week 8

**Feed approximately 5 times daily; discontinue overnight feeds**

- Gradually increase milk volume as intake tolerance improves
  - Continue offering fluids as needed
  - Offer access to fresh water
- 

## Weeks 10–12

- Offer **solids** prior to milk feedings
- 

## Around Week 20

**Feed 3 times daily; leave overnight food available**

- Some individuals may transition to solids at this stage
  - Many facilities continue offering milk for extended developmental support
- 

## Beyond Week 30

**Feed 2 times daily; leave overnight food available**

- Continue monitoring:
    - Food intake
    - Fecal output
    - Body weight
-

# Beyond Week 38

Feed 1–2 times daily

- Encourage **self-feeding behavior**
- 

## Important Notes

- Never feed **dairy products other than goat's milk**
- Never feed **rice**
- Never feed **dog or cat food**

There are multiple successful hand-rearing approaches.

This framework represents one structured method and should always be adapted to:

- Individual behavior
- Appetite
- Growth patterns
- Clinical guidance

Practice **infant-led husbandry**—feed to satiety and adjust based on observed behavior.