

## MARINE MAMMAL NOTES

Much is still unknown about feeding orphaned marine mammals. While it would appear that formulas can be produced that grossly match the mother's milk there are still the unknowns of fatty acid and amino acid composition which play a major role in the utilization of the milks. In cases where the fat levels of the milk are very high it would appear that the addition of fat to the milk could be beneficial to the infant. If fat supplementation is chosen, however, the fat source should be carefully selected to best match the fatty acid composition of the mother's milk if that information is available.

The milk of marine mammals is very high in solids concentration. Because of the difficulty of making a solution from dry powders that is flowable when it is fifty percent or higher in solids all formulas given in this section have a solids content of no higher than thirty percent. Because of the decrease in solids concentration the animals will need to consume a higher volume to meet their energy needs. This is best accomplished by more frequent feedings.