

# **The Five Stages of Progress**

## **UNDERSTANDING THE FIVE STAGES OF PROGRESS IS IMPORTANT!**

To simulate as closely as possible the natural progression in the pouch and give joey maximum chance of survival these stages act as a good general guideline

### **STAGE 1 - FURLESS**

The joey is permanently in a pouch. Stable heat 32° - 34° is important. Use baby lotion or similar to keep joey's skin in good condition. Be aware that the main reason for excessive dryness or flaking peeling) layers of skin is over heating! A couple of minutes of "sunkicks" on a warm day is great for muscle development. Feeding every 4 hours, adding a few drops of yoghurt once a day to its milk to assist in the promotion of stomach flora. Faeces are mustard colour and toothpaste like.

### **STAGE 2 - FINE FUR (eyes open, can stand)**

EGK 7 months/ most wallabies 5-6 months.

The joey starts to leave the pouch for short periods (a few minutes) to get a bit of exercise. Take it in its pouch outside-and sit with it on the grass. Joey will stick its head out of the pouch, sniff ground and grass and be not at all impressed. Close body contact gives it the security it needs, and of course all the common sense things like not turning its face into the sun etc. apply. Give it access to dirt and grass with roots attached at all times. Maintain warmth at about 28° - 32°. Add yoghurt to food once a day. Should start forming pellets.

### **STAGE 3 - THICK FUR**

FIRST OUT OF POUCH: EGK 8 - 10 months most wallabies 6 - 7 months.

It is important for joey to be out of its pouch and in the sun for at least 1 to 2 hours per day. It has to have access to all types of grasses (just grazing on the backyard is not sufficient) and be a big enough area to get plenty of exercise to build up muscle tone. Feed 4 times a day. Even though it is always important to know the volume of milk joey requires at a certain weight and age, this is the stage when it is most tempting to over-feed joey and cause it and yourself innumerable problems.

### **STAGE 4 - TOWARDS INDEPENDENCE**

Ideally its out of the pouch most of the day. Even though he still gets 3 feed a day, two of these he will now lap and he only gets his beloved bottle once a day. Access to a large variety of grasses, lucerne, native shrubs etc. is now very important. END OF POUCH LIFE: EGK 11 months/ most wallabies 8 - 9 months.

### **STAGE 5 - WEANING: EGK 12 months/ most wallabies 10-11 months**

Joey is out quite late at night. Reduce milk to 2 times a day and encourage to lap water, People, dog and car-proofing is important, Joey should have a healthy respect for all of them.

DISPERSAL: EGK 18 months/ wallabies 10-14 months.

## Timing of Significant Events

Timing of significant events of pouch young development in the eastern grey kangaroo

<b>EVENTS</b>	<b>MINIMUM OBSERVED AGE WITH NAKED EYE</b>
Sex distinguishable	8 days
Tips of the ears free	9 days
First growth of whiskers Evident	28 days
Whiskers visible	67 days
Eyelashes visible	100 days
Eyes open	154 days
Fur visible on head	165 days
Fur visible all over body	175 days
Colour of fur definite	200 days
Tips of first incisors through Gum	277 days
Permanently out of pouch	300 days

## HOW OFTEN TO FEED

The age and condition of your joey will determine how often it is fed.

<b>Unfurred and under 600 gms</b>	<b>8 Feeds</b>
<b>Unfurred and over 600 gms</b>	<b>6 Feeds</b>
<b>Just furred-velvet</b>	<b>5 Feeds</b>
<b>Well furred</b>	<b>4 Feeds</b>



## **WARMTH**

Joeys should be evenly maintained at the temperature below, day and night.

Pouches should be large enough for joey to be comfortable, remembering that he is growing all the time. Have plenty of spare pouches and liners - you can never have TOO many.

### **Plan ahead to make up the next size pouches.**

Immediately change the pouch if it is wet. Joeys tolerate a high level of carbon dioxide so covering them over is not a problem. Tiny joeys need to be well protected from cold air at all times.

To help your joey to start thermo regulating on their own and when they have dense fur you only need to use the heat pad at night time. Joey's who are constantly housed in unnaturally high temperatures (wood fire going flat out all the time) don't have a chance to thermo regulate themselves.

Furred joey's should go outside regularly (always with their security pouch) but have the opportunity to experience weather. (at the carer's obvious discretion according to joey's size)

## TEMPERATURES FOR JOEYS

<b>Unfurred and under 600 grams</b>	<b>Approximately 34°C (Humidity crib best)</b>
<b>Unfurred and over 600 grams</b>	<b>Approx. 32 °C</b>
<b>Just furred – velvet</b>	<b>Approx. 30 °C</b>
<b>Well furred</b>	<b>Approx. 28 °C</b>
<b>Fully out of pouch</b>	<b>Provide heater lamp at night</b>



## WHAT SHOULD THE JOEY'S FAECES LOOK LIKE ?

The colour of the joey's poo indicates the flora in the gut. As the joey grows fur and is exposed to grasses with roots and dirt attached, the poo will change from yellow to green to dark green. Green indicates gut flora just developing while dark green pellets indicate highly developed gut flora.

<b>Unfurred and under 600 grams</b>	<b>Egg Yolk</b>
<b>Unfurred and over 600grams</b>	<b>Custard, still yellow</b>
<b>Just furred-velvet</b>	<b>Light green toothpaste</b>
<b>Well furred-starting solids</b>	<b>Dark green pellets</b>