

Evergreen Avian & Exotic Animal Hospital

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Callitrichid Diets (Marmosets, Tamarins)

-Cathy A. Johnson-Delaney, DVM

Supplements and Special Requirements:

UVB light: unfiltered sunlight, approved uvB light bulbs (www.reptileuv.com) for at least 15-20 minutes per day placed at least 6 feet from cage to protect eyes. Additional "full spectrum" lighting (it contains uvA in some quantity) used 12 hrs/day.

Vitamin C: chewable vitamin C tablet 50-100 mg daily

Poly-Vi-Sol children's liquid vitamins: 1 drop daily. With iron until 1 year of age, then without iron. Or: a children's chewable multiple vitamin with minerals can be offered once weekly.

Vitamin E: 400 iu once weekly

Calcium with vitamin D3: note most human "D" products are D2. 50 mg supplemental calcium per day until 1 year of age, then 2-3 X a week. Example: USANA Body Rox: ¼ tablet crushed and mixed into mashed food.

Avoid products with onion

Heating: Sleeping quarters should be 95 degrees F. Can use reptile heating squares that are designed to be on all the time attached to sides of nestbox. Ambient temperatures should not go below 65 degrees F at night. Generally 80-85 degrees ambient air temperature is ideal for housing.

Feeding Infants

Bottle-feeding, hand-rearing is usually only done if the infants are rejected by the parents. Emotional and mental needs of the infant callitrichid involve social interactions of siblings and the social unit. Any human-reared will need social training to re-integrate with callitrichid social groupings at weaning or later in life.

Formula: Enfamil powder low iron: mix as directed on can: 1 scoop to 2 ounces of bottled water. Warmed to 98 degrees F for feeding. Feed every 2-3 hours day and night up to 3 weeks of age. Volume – usually marmosets start at 0.1 mL and increase 0.1-0.2 mL day from age 2-3 days to 2-3 weeks. Tamarins: start at 0.5 mL and increase essentially the same way. At 3 weeks of age all callitrichids begin to eat solid foods.

Beginner solids: Baby cereal mixed into/with formula: mash in a little banana, papaya or mango. Yogurt can also be mixed into this mash. Babies usually only take food that their parents have eaten and mushed up – so it may be necessary to act like you are eating it before offering it to the baby. Do not feed the infant from any food or utensil you have had in your mouth: human herpes simplex (source of cold and canker sores) can cause fatal encephalitis, other human viruses and bacteria can cause serious illness. If you have cold or canker sores, wear gloves and mask when handling the infant callitrichid.

Offer solid foods 2-3 times a day with active encouragement of eating these, decrease formula feedings to 6 times a day week 4, 4 times a day week 5, then usually offer formula feedings 2-3 X a day until 20 weeks of age. Have solid foods available all the time during this 20 weeks, and actively

encourage eating them 2-3 X a day. Most callitrichids will eat dawn/dusk and/or late evening in the wild, in captivity, feeding is usually 8 a.m., midday, and evening (around human dinner time). At week 4 of age, mash in a little canned marmoset diet to the cereal mix – start the “flavor and texture” process.

Diet For Weaned and Adult Tamarins: This amount is for 1, weight of 500 grams

Morning: Canned ZuPreem Marmoset Diet 30 g (1/16 can)

4 biscuits soaked in orange juice (amount from ½ an orange) hi-protein monkey chow

Afternoon: 1/8 apple (25 g); 1/5 banana (50 g); Canned ZuPreem Marmoset Diet 30 g (1/16 can): chop and dice all these together. 1 drop pediatric vitamins daily

Dinner: 1 tsp fruit yogurt, 2 hi-protein monkey chow biscuits soaked in white grape juice or unfiltered apple juice

Fresh Water Available Always!

Treats: 3 X a week: 2 crickets (fed T-Rex calcium cricket food or insectivore fare-Reliable Protein Products) OR 1 tablespoon hard-boiled egg, with shell. Avoid larval worms and plain types of proteins like meats as these are not “whole” and balanced foods.

Diet for Weaned and Adult Marmosets: This amount is for 1, weight 300 grams

Morning: Canned ZuPreem Marmoset Diet 30 g (1/16 can)

4 biscuits soaked in orange juice (amount from ½ an orange) hi-protein monkey chow

Afternoon: 1/10 banana (25 g), 1 tablespoon (25 g) feline diet, 1/16 can (30) g Canned ZuPreem Marmoset Diet: chop all this together

Dinner: 1 tsp fruit yogurt, 2 hi-protein monkey chow biscuits soaked in white grape juice or unfiltered apple juice. 1 drop pediatric vitamins daily.

Fresh Water Available Always!

Treats: 3 X a week: 2 crickets (fed T-Rex calcium cricket food or insectivore fare-Reliable Protein Products) OR 1 tablespoon hard-boiled egg, with shell. Avoid larval worms and plain types of proteins like meats as these are not “whole” and balanced foods.

Disease Risks: Humans to Monkey!

Do not visit zoos, pet stores with any other species of nonhuman primate. All humans working with monkeys should be tested for tb annually, be current on measles and tetanus vaccination, and be immunized to chicken pox (varicella – either by vaccine or have had the illness). If you have a cold or flu – do not directly handle the monkey: wear fresh outer clothing, mask, gloves. Try to minimize your contact with them if you are ill.