

## From the Web - Hand Feeding #1

### INFO ON HAND FEEDING ...

**[GIULIO MARCOCCIA](#)** - Mar 3, 2009 [View](#) | [Viewers](#)

NOT SURE IF I SEEN IT ON THIS SITE OR ANOTHER , DO ANY OF YOU GUYS USE PURINA GREEN PELLETS AS HAND FEED FORMULA . I HAVE SOME AND HAVE GROUND IT TO A POWDER , BUT AM HAVING TROUBLE FIGURING OUT THE VOLUME OF WATER TO ADD , SO FAR I HAVE TRIED 4 PARTS WATER TO 1 PART POWDER AND THIS SEEMS TO BE OK ,BUT BIRDS ARE NOT GROWING AS FAST . WHATS YOUR THOUGHTS ???

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I TRY NOT TO THINK.  
IT HURTS MY HEAD WHEN I TRY AND THINK.

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g mamming is ewesing green/yellow and likes them better than exact.

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G ...I am using the gold and green as one is high protien and the other is high carbs. I'm mixing them 50/50 green and gold. I am grinding them up in a coffee bean grinder and mixing them in a less formal manner than you. I have a quart container that I fill about 2/3 full of water and dump in the coffee grinder container full I don't know the exact volume of that. I then add mix or water as needed until it is thick like pudding(after I let it set for about 15 minutes) and pump them up. I'm using roudybush squab the first four or five days and then I go to a formula that is one third roudybush 3 and 2/3 Purina nutriblend for another week or so at least until they are showing plenty of feather Then i go to straight nutriblend until they wean. So far it is really working good for me nice fat squabs .. I used the game bird started pellets last year but it must have been to hot for the birds as all of them had stress marks on their juvenile feathers, This year with nutriblend they are doing great.

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ok dennis , i do the same type of thing with a few hand feed formula's . i have tried a thicker consistency ,but find the babies have a hard time digesting it . how do you mix your squab formula , i use 6 water to 1 powder , the directions on the roudybush package sucks . how many times a day are you feeding ? how many cc per bird say at different life stages . how hot do you keep your brooders ? just picking your brain ,this maybe a great subject to help others raise helmets especially the first few days of life after hatch . also if you let your formula sit for 15 min , is it not too cold .

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I would sure like to come off a little more organized in the process Giulio but I'm just not. I can't tell you if it is 3 to one or 6 to one. I mix the roudybush squab very thin the first couple days and check to see if they are digesting it or just pulling the water out. Very thin to me is almost watery in consistency. As we both found out the last couple seasons sometimes they seem to suck the water out and leave hard clumps in the crop that can eventually plug them off and kill them. If they are passing the roudy OK then I start thickening the formula over the coming days to a very thick solution I do this because I am trying to mimic what happens in the nest. The thicker solution will start to stretch the crop without coming back up the throat and choking the baby (learned that one the hard way a few times) I still continue to check daily and make sure hard lumps are not forming in the crop. If I find those lumps, it is not a good thing. I loose some at that point but I have learned to save them as well. I use my fingers on the crop and attempt to smash the lumps while adding a little warm water down the throat. I have gotten pretty successful at, for lack of a better term, "re-mixing" the solution inside the crop. If I'm lucky the baby will then digest the food in the crop and the problem is fixed. Once I start getting big bulgy crops on the young I start giving them a partial shot of the roudybush 3/Purina nutriblend formula along with the roudybush squab, just a little. This is the stage in the loft where you will see a few grains in the crop so I'm sure it won't hurt them. If they are growing good at that point they get off the roudybush squab completely.

I use metal shaded lights with 100 WATT bulbs. I have four boxes setting adjacent to each other with the youngest birds in the middle that way they get the most heat. It is a trial and error process that I adjust throughout the season. I don't have a thermometer ( I should). If the birds are panting it's too hot if they are shivering it's too cold. As the weather gets warmer the lights get raised higher. This time of year the temps can swing from 28 degrees to 60 so it is a daily process. A brooder of some sort with a thermostat and heat control would be much better. I feed the youngest three to four times a day. It depends on when I can get away to get home and do it. The older youngsters get fed twice a day.

For all but the youngest a tight full crop is the measure for how much I give each until I want them to wean. When I move them to the weaning pen I cut down their feed dramatically they get a half a crop full twice a day basicly enough to keep them alive. I always keep a weaned youngster in with them..

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thanks dennis sounds like we are on the same page , i just have not had the same luck with the roudybush squab ,my babies just don't seem to grow with it . I will cut the water down a bit and watch their crops .

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What I think I've learned is to not spend too much time on the roudy squab, get to the roudy and or roudy/purina mix as quickly as possible.