

## NEWLY-HATCHED BIRDS (1st stage)

### PROTOCOL FOR FORMULA FEEDING

Hand-raising should allow the breeder to grow the birds as successfully as their parents would and to obtain similar outcomes. Obviously, the right care and fulfilment of the birds' needs on each developing stage is essential to achieve adequate growth rates. But if one stage is especially important when hand-rearing the birds, this is the newly-hatched stage.

The basic criterion to apply is for the **animals to gain weight from the first day of life**. A correct growth rate during the first days puts the birds on the right track for an exponential growth trend, which is the basis for the adequate development of the chicks. Birds can double their weight when they are 3 days old and multiply it by three when they are 6 days old. The growth chart of the first few days shows a very vertical line.

In order for this to happen, it is necessary to use a product with a high concentration in both protein and energy (fat). *Crop Milk Replacer* is the right product for this stage. Its use is recommended for any species of altricial birds during their first days of life, variable depending on the species bred. For instance, in the case of African Greys we recommend using it for 7 days as an exclusive diet and then 5 more days combining it with a less concentrated diet. With macaws, it is recommended to extend a little its use as an exclusive diet. However, for smaller birds with faster growth rates, it is better to reduce a little the length of its use.

*Crop Milk Replacer* is an exclusive highly digestible product. This makes it a product apt for other uses: care of hospitalized birds, temporary feeding of birds with slow digestive transit...



### NEONATAL CARE OF AFRICAN GREY PARROTS

The first feeding will be given when the baby bird shows the swallowing reflex, which usually happens within one or two hours after hatching. We recommend: *Lactato de Ringer* sprinkled with *wilDiets Crop Milk Replacer*.

The birds need to be fed every 2 or 3 hours. Thus, the birds will be given 8 formula feedings in one day and the nightly rest of both the bird and the carer. An example feeding schedule could be: 7 h - 9 h - 11 h - 13 h - 16 h - 18 h - 21 h - 24 h. We will stick to 8 feedings until the bird is 5 days old.

During the first 8 formula feedings, the basis of *Lactato de Ringer* will be concentrated by mixing it with *wilDiets Crop Milk Replacer* progressively with each feeding until a concentration of 20% is achieved on the first day and a concentration of 25% is given from the second day on. The formula mix should have the same texture as a shaken yoghurt. Then, there is no need to keep using *Lactato de Ringer*, and the mix can be done with water.

From day 7, the amount of formula fed to the birds will be reduced. We suggest giving 6 feedings up to day 14. The example schedule could be: 7 h - 10 h - 13 h - 17 h - 20 h - 23 h. At this stage, *wilDiets Crop Milk Replacer* can be mixed with a less concentrated formula. In the case of the African Grey, this would be *PSITTACUS Neonatal*.

