

KITTEN BOTTLE/TUBE FEEDING AND STOMACH CAPACITY CHART

WEIGHT OF KITTEN			Daily Caloric Requirement*	Amount of Formula Per	Amount of Formula Per	Approximate Feedings Per
OUNCES (oz)	GRAMS (g)	GRAINS (gn)		Day (mL)**	Feeding (mL)*	Day***
2 oz	57 g	875 gn	11 kcal	15 mL	2 mL	7
3 oz	85 g	1,312 gn	17 kcal	23 mL	3 mL	7
4 oz	113 g	1,750 gn	23 kcal	31 mL	5 mL	7
5 oz	142 g	2,187 gn	28 kcal	38 mL	6 mL	7
6 oz	170 g	2,625 gn	34 kcal	46 mL	7 mL	7
7 oz	198 g	3,062 gn	40 kcal	54 mL	8 mL	7
8 oz	227 g	3,500 gn	45 kcal	61 mL	9 mL	7
9 oz	255 g	3,937 gn	51 kcal	69 mL	10 mL	7
10 oz	283 g	4,375 gn	57 kcal	77 mL	11 mL	7
11 oz	312 g	4,812 gn	62 kcal	84 mL	12 mL	6
12 oz	340 g	5,250 gn	68 kcal	92 mL	14 mL	6
13 oz	369 g	5,687 gn	74 kcal	100 mL	15 mL	6
14 oz	397 g	6,125 gn	79 kcal	107 mL	16 mL	5
15 oz	425 g	6,562 gn	85 kcal	115 mL	17 mL	5
16 oz	454 g	7,200 gn	91 kcal	123 mL	18 mL	5
17 oz	482 g	7,737 gn	96 kcal	130 mL	19 mL	4
18 oz	510 g	7,875 gn	102 kcal	138 mL	20 mL	4
19 oz	539 g	8,312 gn	108 kcal	146 mL	22 mL	4
20 oz	567 g	8,750 gn	113 kcal	153 mL	23 mL	4

REFERENCES

* The daily caloric requirement was calculated using 20 kcal/100 g body weight and the amount per feeding using 4 ml/100 g body weight. The energy requirement is ~20-26 kcal/100g body weight daily and the maximum comfortable stomach capacity is ~4 ml/100 g body weight.

** Concentration 0.74 kcal/ml. Most commercial kitten milk replacers in the US provide less than 1 kcal/ml (0.74 kcal/ml), acting to increase the volume of milk required to meet caloric needs. This can be problematic in terms of the number and size of feedings given relative to stomach capacity and more likely to result in gastrointestinal disturbances. This may also account for why bottle-fed kittens grow slower than kittens that nurse off a mother.

*** As the kitten is adjusting well to the milk and the feeding volume, you may be able to increase the volume fed to help reduce the number of feedings per day. Be aware that exceeding the stomach capacity (amount per feeding) may put the kitten at risk of aspiration, vomiting, diarrhea, and gas build-up in the stomach and intestines.

Lawler, D. F. "Neonatal and pediatric care of the puppy and kitten."

- Theriogenology, vol. 70, no.3, 2008, pp. 384-392.

Cline, Jill. "Cattery Management and Nutrition of the Queen and Her Offspring." Zambelli, Daniele. "Feline Neonatal Physiology, Behavior, and Socialization."

- Management of Pregnant and Neonatal Dogs, Cats, and Exotic Pets, edited by Cheryl Lopate, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2012.