

THE LOW DOWN: EQUIPMENT FOR HAND REARING!

There are a variety of feeding spoons and syringes on the market and there is no right or wrong choice when it comes to feeding equipment. However you need to make sure the product is safe and that it's the right size for your bird. Some feeding equipment, like crop needles, require experience as they can be used incorrectly which can result in heartache! Every option has its pro's and con's, but to make the choice easier, we have given you the low down below!

CROP FEEDING TUBES

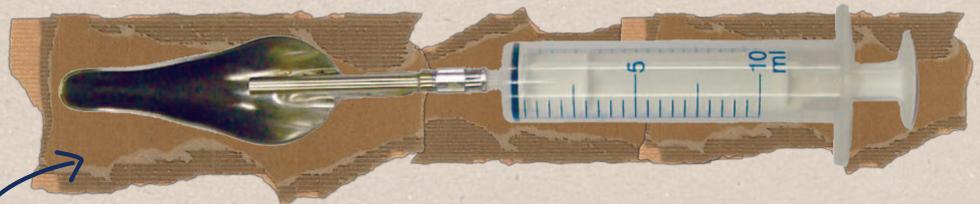
Crop tubes speed up the task of feeding young birds tremendously, they cut down waste, make feeding at the right temperature easier and ensure more accurate volumes of feed are delivered. Crop tubes even eliminate the ugly dried crust of food that accumulates around a birds beak from spoon or syringe feeding.

You do need to be confident and proficient with a crop tube; they take some skill to use safely. These skills can be learnt quite easily, Vetafarm has recorded a YouTube video with everything you need to know about crop feeding. As for confidence, that can only be gained one way, with hands on experience.



FEEDING SYRINGES

Baby birds can also be syringe fed directly into the mouth without any attachments at all. Again, while this is quite messy and does take some time, bonding can be better with the birds. Many breeders employ this method, however there is an increased risk of birds inhaling food if they are fed too quickly. Standard disposable syringes can be used and the 'Basik' brand is by far the best choice in this area. Reusable, perspex feeding syringes are also available from Vetafarm. These can attach to crop tubes and the Ezy Feeder or be used for direct feeding. These reusable syringes have the advantage of being easier to handle, easier to clean and obviously as the name states, they are reusable!



EZY FEEDER

The Ezy Feeder was designed by veterinarian Dr Tony Gestier and is used in a similar manner as the feeding spoon. The Ezy Feeder is a stainless steel spoon with a tube attachment that connects to a syringe. The Ezy Feeder offers the advantages of using a syringe with the simplicity of the spoon. Ezy Feeders allow for accurate, low mess feeding and the ability to keep food warm for the duration of the feed. A great compromise for those that want a better system than the standard feeding spoon but don't have the technical expertise required to handle a crop needle.

FEEDING BABIES?



www.youtube.com/vetafarm

Jump onto YouTube to watch how to correctly mix hand rearing formulas. From temperature down to the right utensils, it's all here!



FEEDING SPOONS

Many people believe that a closer bond is built between bird and person using this method. Which makes sense due to the extend amounts of time you will be spending with the babies during feeding. Although time consuming, feeding spoons are very easy to use. Vetafarm has a simple feeding spoon for those who need a low tech feeding system.



www.vetafarm.com.au