

FLUID REPLACEMENT CHART (50ml/kg)

| WEIGHT (gms) | DAILY MAINTENANCE (mls) | + | FLUID DEFICIT 5% | FLUID DEFICIT 10% | FLUID DEFICIT 15% |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | add to | | | |
| 50 | 2.5mls | + | 2.5mls | 5mls | 7.5mls |
| 100 | 5 | + | 5 | 10 | 15 |
| 150 | 7.5mls | + | 7.5mls | 15 | 22.5mls |
| 200 | 10 | + | 10 | 20 | 30 |
| 250 | 12.5mls | + | 12.5mls | 25 | 37.5mls |
| 300 | 15 | + | 15 | 30 | 45 |
| 350 | 17.5mls | + | 17.5mls | 35 | 52.5mls |
| 400 | 20 | + | 20 | 40 | 60 |
| 450 | 22.5mls | + | 22.5mls | 45 | 67.5mls |
| 500 | 25 | + | 25 | 50 | 75 |
| 550 | 27.5mls | + | 27.5mls | 55 | 82.5mls |
| 600 | 30 | + | 30 | 60 | 90 |
| 650 | 32.5mls | + | 32.5mls | 65 | 97.5mls |
| 700 | 35 | + | 35 | 70 | 105 |
| 750 | 37.5mls | + | 37.5mls | 75 | 112.5mls |
| 800 | 40 | + | 40 | 80 | 120 |
| 850 | 42.5mls | + | 42.5mls | 85 | 127.5mls |
| 900 | 45 | + | 45 | 90 | 135 |
| 950 | 47.5mls | + | 47.5mls | 95 | 142.5mls |
| 1KG | 50 | + | 50 | 100 | 150 |

Amounts to give:

It must be remembered that the amount of fluids you administer has to be an amount to counteract dehydration/fluid loss PLUS the normal daily amount required (maintenance rate).

In order to work out the correct amount the hedgehog must be weighed accurately.

To work out the amount of fluids needed you first need to assess the degree of dehydration.

Clinical signs for varying degrees of dehydration include:

5% dehydration – some minor tenting of the skin, dry lips and gums, slightly sunken eyes

10% dehydration – prolonged skin tenting, dry lips and gums, pale gums and prolonged Capillary Refill Time CRT (press the gum and see how long it takes for the white gum to turn pink). Try it on your own gums.

15% dehydration – collapse, severe shock, death imminent.

The chart gives a daily dose over a 24 hour period. After 24 hours reassess the degree of dehydration and re weigh the casualty so you can adjust the dose for the next 24 hours accordingly.

The hedgehog may require fluids 5 or 6 times a day to give the full 24 hour requirement. It is probably best to keep the total fluid injected at one site to around 10mls at a time for the smaller hedgehogs although very small hedgehogs should have less and larger ones can take more.

If a hedgehog is presented in a debilitated state assume it has lost 15% of its total body fluids.

However, if in doubt, assume all casualties require fluid therapy even if at first they do not appear dehydrated. One exception might be a young female about to give birth as they sometimes come out in the day not knowing what is happening and are picked up and taken into care.

Grateful thanks to Vale Wildlife Hospital (www.valewildlife.org.uk) for their permission to use this fluid replacement chart.

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