

Valhal Exotics – Fox Care Guide

Basic Supplies

To properly care for your fox kit, you'll need the following essentials:

- A **constant-on heat pad** (avoid auto shut-off types; simple models from Conair or similar work well)
- Soft **blankets, towels, or bedding** (use **pine bedding only** — *never cedar*, as it contains harmful oils)
- **Powdered puppy milk replacer** (we recommend Esbilac)
- **Canned dog food**
- A **shallow dish** for feeding
- A **secure kennel or enclosure**
- **Dewormers:**
 - Pyrantel Pamoate (for roundworms and hookworms)
 - Fenbendazole (commonly sold as Panacur)

We rotate these dewormers every few weeks to ensure broader parasite coverage. Using only one may not eliminate all parasite types. Always follow label instructions and consult your veterinarian before administering any medication.

Feeding Your Kit

At this stage, your kit should be eating a mix of canned dog food combined with milk replacer.

Milk Mixture

- For Esbilac: **1 part powder : 2 parts warm bottled water**
- For lamb milk replacer: typically **1 part powder : 3 parts warm bottled water**

Use bottled water to maintain consistency and help avoid digestive upset during transitions.

The final mixture should resemble a soft, spreadable consistency (similar to ham salad). Add approximately **3–4 oz of milk mixture** to each feeding.

 Always use **warm water**, never hot.

Feeding Schedule

- Young kits: **3–4 times per day**
- As they grow: gradually reduce feeding frequency

Younger kits require more frequent feedings than older ones, so adjust based on age.

Handling During Feeding

To reduce food aggression and build trust:

- Feed your kit **in your lap**
- Place a towel underneath them
- Spoon-feed and gently pet them during meals

This helps create a positive association with human interaction.

Introducing New Foods

As your fox grows, begin slowly adding variety:

Good starter options:

- Cooked chicken (small pieces)
- Scrambled eggs
- Soft fruits (watermelon, apples, berries)
- Unsweetened applesauce
- Thawed mixed vegetables

You can also introduce dry kibble, but:

- **Soak it in the milk mixture** to soften it
- Cut all foods into small pieces to prevent choking

Fox kits tend to eat quickly, so preparation matters.

Adult Diet

Adult foxes thrive on a **varied diet** consisting of:

- Quality dog food
- Protein sources (chicken, rabbit, venison, fish, organs like liver/gizzards)
- Eggs (raw, cooked, or with crushed shell)

- Vegetables and limited fruits
- Occasional insects (mealworms, crickets, etc.)

Raw feeding is a personal choice. If feeding raw with bones, be aware of the risks. Grinding meat and bone is a safer alternative.

Important Nutrient

- **Taurine is essential** for proper development
 - Recommended: ~500 mg daily for adults
 - Can be provided through diet or supplements
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Bringing Your Kit Home

Your fox will likely be shy and stressed during the first few days. This is completely normal.

What helps:

- Frequent, gentle handling
- Quiet, safe environment
- Patience

The more time you invest early, the more confident and social your fox will become.

Housing & Safety

Fox kits should **not be given full freedom unsupervised**.

Options:

- Crate/kennel when unattended
- A fox-proofed room
- A covered exercise pen

 By **10–15 weeks**, most kits can jump out of open pens — plan ahead.

This isn't about restriction—it's about safety. Foxes are curious and can easily get into dangerous situations.

Socialization & Health Safety

Socialization is important, but **health comes first**.

Until fully vaccinated:

- Avoid public places (parks, sidewalks, pet stores, etc.)
- Do not place your kit on unfamiliar ground
- Be cautious of exposure to diseases like parvo and distemper

Treat them with the same caution you would a young puppy.

Deworming

Regular deworming is critical, especially under 16 weeks.

Typical approach:

- Rotate between Pyrantel (e.g., Nemex-2) and Fenbendazole (Panacur)
- Panacur is typically given **for 3–4 consecutive days**

We also recommend:

- Routine fecal checks with your vet
 - Adjusting treatment as needed based on results
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Flea & Parasite Control

For fleas, ticks, or mites:

- We recommend Revolution (dog formula)

Always confirm proper dosing with your veterinarian.

Vaccinations

Foxes should follow a **puppy-style vaccination schedule**.

- Start vaccines around **10 weeks of age**
- Continue boosters as directed by your vet

Work closely with a vet familiar with exotic animals when possible.

Final Notes

Your veterinarian should always be your **first point of contact** for any health concerns.

We're always happy to help and love seeing updates as your fox grows and thrives. Feel free to reach out or connect with our community:

- Facebook: facebook.com/valhalexo
- Website: valhalexotics.com