

## Thank You

Studies show that most veterinary visits by small herbivore pets are due to dietary and husbandry mismanagement, often by well-intentioned owners. You can make sure your pet has the most nutritionally-sound diet available by paying attention to pet food labels, educating yourself about ingredients, and partnering with companies, such as Oxbow Animal Health, who has set the industry standard for care of small pets recovering from illness or injury.

Many pet owners around the world, just like you, report that Critical Care has a profound effect on the recovery of their special little friends. We are thankful to be able to provide this product for your use and are hopeful that your outcome will be successful.

### Veterinarian Guidance

Your veterinarian is the best source of health advice for your pet. Remember that it may become necessary to contact your veterinarian regarding questions that arise while using Critical Care for herbivores.

### Special Instructions

# PROFESSIONAL LINE

Adding Convenience to Care

29012 Mill Road • Murdock, NE 68407  
800-249-0366 • 402-867-2400 • [www.oxbowanimalhealth.com](http://www.oxbowanimalhealth.com)  
Made in the USA



# Critical Care

## Instructions for **The Pet Owner**

Critical Care™ was developed and is recommended because we understand your need for an effective, versatile choice that you can trust for the treatment of your pet. Critical Care is a premium recovery food which can be given to herbivores that are unwilling to eat their normal diet due to illness or surgery. This specially-formulated product contains all the essential nutrients of a complete diet as well as high-fiber timothy hay to ensure proper gut physiology and digestion.

PROFESSIONAL LINE

## Feeding Guidelines

The amount of Critical Care you feed your pet depends on a number of factors, including species or breed, age, weight and medical condition. The goal in feeding Critical Care is to work toward gradually transitioning your pet back to its normal diet. It is important that you work closely with your veterinarian to develop an appropriate plan for your pet.

### Preparing Critical Care

Critical Care is a convenient, one-step, powdered formula – just add water. The amount of water added can vary depending on the suggested feeding method for your pet. Critical Care should be fed at room temperature or slightly warmer to ensure ease of digestion and encourage acceptance.

Ideally, Critical Care should be prepared fresh at each feeding. Always start with fresh water and clean utensils. Any excess prepared mix can be refrigerated up to 24 hours and brought to room temperature before the next feeding. Open, packets of dry product can be stored in a sealed container for up to 6 months.



1.

Gather everything you need.



2.

Mix the powder with the correct amount of water.



3.

Spoon mixture into syringe (or feed mixture with a spoon).



4.

Feed with syringe.

### General Feeding Tips:

- ▲ Prepare Critical Care and assemble everything you need prior to beginning.
- ▲ Retrieve your pet & choose a location that is comfortable for the both of you.
- ▲ Wrap your pet in a soft towel if restraining your pet is necessary.
- ▲ Slowly administer small amounts until the recommended dose is fed.
- ▲ Offer fresh water frequently throughout the feeding process.
- ▲ Take short breaks when needed.
- ▲ When finished, praise your pet.

### How do I evaluate successful feeding?

The following changes should be apparent after a few feedings:

- ▲ Normal-appearing stools - consistent in shape, frequency, size and texture
- ▲ Weight gain
- ▲ Increased activity level and energy
- ▲ Improved appetite

## Feeding Methods

One of the many benefits of Critical Care is its versatility. The various feeding methods allow you, the pet owner, to participate in the overall wellness and recovery of your pet. The consistency of the prepared product will vary based upon both the condition of your pet and the recommendation of your veterinarian.

### Assist-Feeding: Syringe

When syringe feeding, it is often recommended that you restrain your pet. This tends to deter your pet from wanting to eat so it is important that you remain calm and relaxed. Slow and confident movements will decrease stress for both you and your pet. If possible, have someone available to help you the first few times.

Prepare a thin paste in a mixing bowl and scoop the paste into the back of a syringe in which the plunger has been removed. Replace the plunger and slowly administer small amounts until the recommended dose is fed. Your veterinarian will suggest and provide the appropriate syringe for your pet. (Note: It will not work to fill the syringe by siphoning up through the tip.) Suggested mixing ratio - 1:2 (Critical Care:Water)

### Assist-Feeding: Spoon

Mix a thick paste and offer it to your pet from a spoon. It may still be necessary to restrain your pet with this feeding method. If so, refer to some helpful guidelines in the *General Feeding Tips*. Suggested mixing ratio - 1:1.5

### Assist-Feeding: Bowl

As your pet recovers, it may not be necessary to continue assist-feeding. Mix a thick paste and place it in your pet's favorite feeding bowl, enabling your pet to feed itself. Be sure to clean the bowl between feedings. Suggested mixing ratio - 1:1.5

### Self-Feeding: Top dressing

When your pet is ready to try eating its normal diet, sprinkle dry Critical Care as a top dressing to improve food flavor and stimulate its appetite. You may want to mist the food or hay with water to help the powder stick. Suggested mixing ratio - 1:0

### Self-Feeding: Fun shapes

You are one step closer to completing the transition back to your pet's normal diet! Form fun shapes by using less water during preparation. Be creative – this is a great opportunity to provide enrichment. Suggested mixing ratio - 1:1