

# IMPLICATIONS OF MANAGING A MOTHER-REARED ORANGUTAN INDOORS DURING EARLY INFANCY

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## **Abstract**

In September, healthy male orangutan was born and raised by the dam at the National Zoological Park. However, due to enclosure limitations and timing of the year, the pair would have no access to the outdoor enclosure until May. Knowing that milk was not likely to contain biologically significant levels of vitamin D, and access to UV lighting was not practical, we were faced with the potential of rickets developing in the infant without supplementation. This discussion will revolve around the science behind practical vitamin D provision to a neonate primate in a northern temperate climate.

## **Points to discuss:**

Would we expect vitamin D3 stores would last until the spring?

Do we think (or know) orangutan milk would supply adequate vitamin D?

What are our options for supplementation?

If we do supplement, can we test efficacy?