

Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius* hand rearing.

Paignton Zoo

Basic diet given

Apple, Pear, Banana, Raspberries, Strawberries, Melon, Mango, Pineapple, Kiwi, Grapes, grated Carrot, Bonemeal and Oyster grit.

Temperature

Room temperature with a heat lamp.

Days 0 – 3

It takes 2-3 days for yolk sac to be internally consumed. Offer small amount of food.

Days 3 – 6

- Feed every 1 hr 30 mins between 8am – 7pm
- Take chicks outside daily

Little amounts taken each feed. Red fruits, yellow flowers such as Rape *Brassica napus* and live food taken first and are a great help getting the chicks to initially feed. Each feed offer chicks food by hand or drop it in front of them to stimulate them to feed. Put Pieces of fruit in water dish and birds take to drinking. Food and water left in with chicks around the clock and changed at each feed.

Days 6 – 14

- Feed every 2 hrs between 8am – 7pm
- Take chicks outside daily

More food eaten at feeds.

Days 14 - 30

- Feed every 2hrs between 8am – 7pm .1 boiled egg and a pinch of minced beef divided between daily feeds.
- Daily exercise for 30 mins outside.

Consume more food by themselves .

Days 30 – 60

- Feed 4 times a day between 8am – 5pm
- Daily exercise for 1 hr outside.

Appetites increase. Chicks love to bathe in puddles on walks.

Days 60 – 270

- Feed 3 times a day between 8am – 5pm. Ostrich pellet and whole greens given.
- Turn heat lamp off.

Days 270 –

- Feed twice daily
- Move to outside enclosure.

Single hatched chicks are given a day old Chicken as a companion.

Non-slip substrate in indoor enclosures is essential.