What to feed a baby crow

BEFORE YOU FEED ANYTHING

1. Feathered, blue eyes, hopping? It's a fledgling, normal from late May to July.
2. A nestling with bare skin goes back in its nest or a basket tied in the same tree.
3. Cold or weak? Warm it first: a box in a dark, quiet room, heating pad on low under half the box.
4. Never drip water or milk into its beak.
5. Call a licensed rehabber.

Find a wildlife rehabilitator near you: ahnow.org

Safe staples

- **Soaked kitten kibble** – Stopgap base: dry kibble soaked soft, plus calcium
- **Hard-boiled egg** – Chopped, yolk in, mashed shell for calcium
- **Turkey or game bird starter** – Soaked base for a mash, needs egg and calcium
- **Calcium and bird vitamins** – Add to every mash; prevents bone disease
- **Water in a shallow dish** – Dish once perching. Never drip into beak

Small amounts only

- **Crickets and waxworms** – Dusted with calcium, alongside the mash
- **Mealworms** – A few at a time; too many cause blockages
- **High-protein baby cereal** – Only mixed into a kibble mash, never alone
- **Peanuts, unsalted** – Unsalted, chopped, self-feeding birds only
- **Corn** – Self-feeding birds only
- **Sunflower seeds** – Unsalted, self-feeding birds only
- **Berries and soft fruit** – Self-feeding birds; no seeds or pits
- **Grapes** – Halved, seedless, self-feeding birds only
- **Whole mice and day-old chicks** – Only once it tears food apart itself

Never feed

- **Dog food** – Merck: not for orphaned birds. Use kitten kibble
- **Canned cat or dog food** – Too low in protein for a growing crow
- **Milk** – Birds can't digest lactose
- **Cheese and dairy** – Lactose gives birds diarrhea
- **Bread** – Empty calories, choking risk
- **Earthworms** – Can carry gapeworm from the soil
- **Hamburger and raw meat** – Unbalanced diet, not a crow food alone
- **Rice** – Merck: not for orphans; empty calories
- **Avocado** – Persin damages the heart
- **Chocolate** – Theobromine and caffeine are toxic
- **Salted chips and snacks** – Salt dehydrates birds
- **Onion and garlic** – Harm red blood cells

Feeding schedule

Age	Looks like	Food	Amount	How often
0–1 week	Naked with sparse gray down tufts, eyes closed, pink mouth, can't stand	Rehabber only. Stopgap: soaked, blended kitten kibble with egg and calcium	Small bites until it stops gaping; corvids stop begging when full	Every 15–20 minutes, sunrise to sunset; no night feeds
1–3 weeks	Eyes open, dark pin feathers coming in, blue eyes, pink gape	Kibble or starter mash with egg and calcium; cut-up insects	Until it stops gaping; weigh daily in grams, it should gain every day	Every 30–45 minutes, sunrise to sunset
3–5 weeks	Feathered, short tail, blue eyes, pink mouth corners, stands and perches	Mash, chopped egg, insects dusted with calcium	Until it stops gaping	Every 30–60 minutes in daylight
5–8 weeks	Looks like a small adult with a short tail and blue eyes; hops on the ground, can't fly well	Mash and insects by hand; a dish of the same food and a water dish	Hand-feed until it stops begging; keep the dish full	Every 1–2 hours, 12 hours a day
8–12 weeks	Flying, follows adults, still begs with a nasal caw	Mash and insects, then chopped unsalted peanuts, corn and fruit in a dish	Dish free choice	Hand-feed every 2–3 hours, then cut back gradually
12 weeks and up	Flies well, feeds itself, stays near the family group	Varied diet from a dish; mice and chicks once it tears food apart	Free choice	Eats on its own

Feeding log (weigh before feeding, same time each day)

Date	Time	Weight (g)	Bites	Droppings	Notes