# **Tube Feeding Step by Step**

1. Measure the tube!!! VERY IMPORTANT!!! End of tube at last rib and lay the tube up the puppy’s side all the way to the mouth and mark with permanent marker.
2. Draw amount of formula (+ a little extra because of what’s retained in the tube) into a syringe and warm. Very important puppy and formula are warm.
3. Connect tube to syringe and plunge enough so tube is full and all air is out.
4. Wet end of tube in formula or water.
5. Feed tube into puppy carefully on puppy’s right side of the mouth. Puppy should swallow not gag. Tube slides relatively easily if you are in the correct place and the mark you made will be close to the opening of the mouth when you have it where it needs to be. If the mark is way off you are NOT where you need to be and do NOT start to feed. Back out and try again.
6. Once tube is correctly place…. Hold syringe with the plunger up toward ceiling. This keeps any air in the syringe at the top and avoids it going down the tube into the puppy. Plunge formula slowly as to avoid regurgitation.
7. Remove tube from puppy slowly to also avoid regurgitation.
8. Success!!!! 😊

The goal (which may be unrealistic at times) is 1 ml per 1 oz of body weight and I feed every 2 hours from birth to about 1 weeks old. At 1 week old, if they are stable, I space the feedings out at night to 3 hours just for my own sanity! NOTE - It can be a struggle getting the 1 ml per 1 oz of body weight into the puppy that spits up. Sometimes I’m 1-3 ml’s behind that goal just because of spitting up. You can also do a lesser amount but feed every 1 ½ hours especially during the day.