

Force Feeding (tube feeding)

This is NOT a quick cure because wild-caught seahorse will not eat frozen foods. This is only for serious use, when an injury or medication threatens the life of the seahorse. If you have a seahorse refusing to eat for longer than four days, you should seriously consider the following procedure.

Prolonged use of this procedure will kill a seahorse. But it will quite often save a sick one.

SUPPLIES:

0.78mm catheter

syringe x 2

cod liver oil (omega 3 oil)

spirulina flakes/powder

mysis shrimp

100 micro sieve (actually a 250 micron will do)

clove oil

container of seawater

mortar and pestle (a grinding tool)

- 1) Insert the needle into the oil capsule and draw .2 to .3 cc's of oil



- 2) Add the Omega 3 oil and spirulina powder into a cube of mysis shrimp. Don't use brine, it has very little nutritional

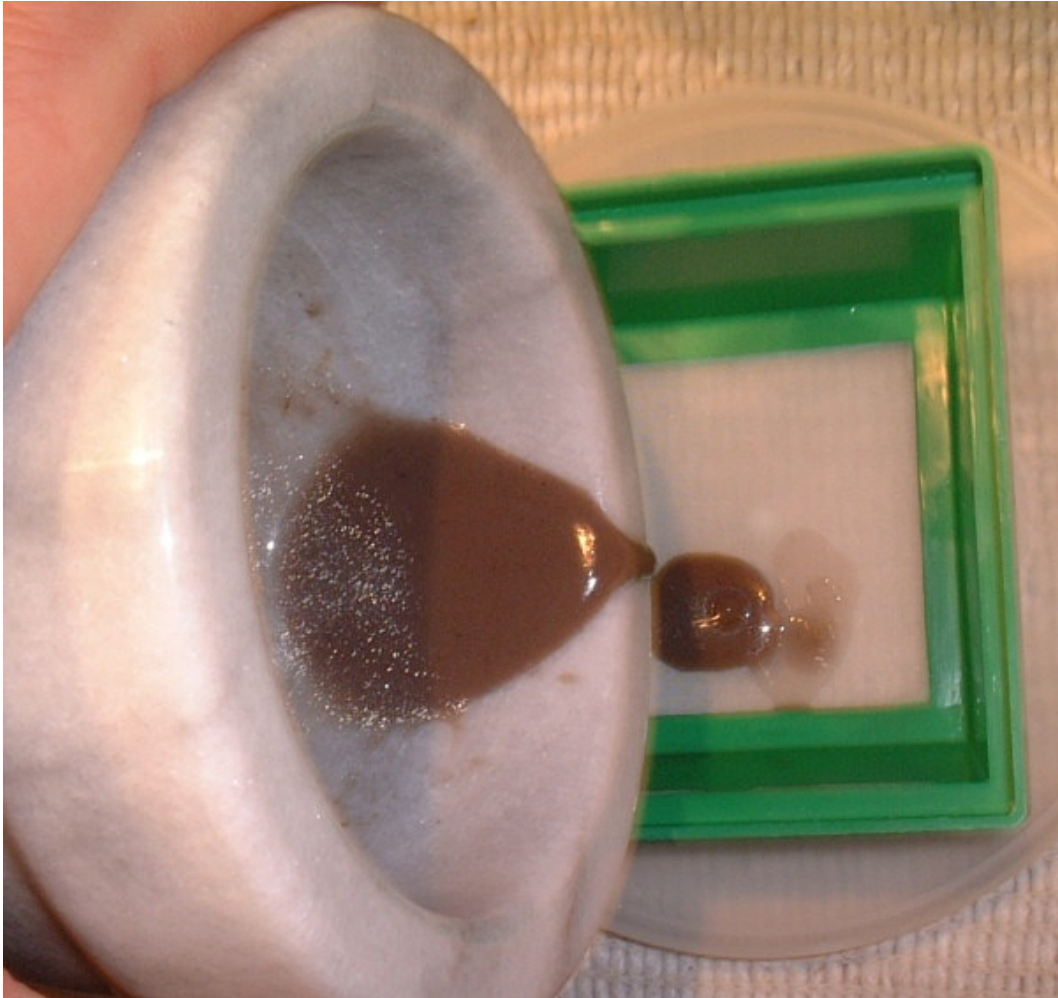
value.



- 3) Grind the contents into a lump-free, fine consistency.



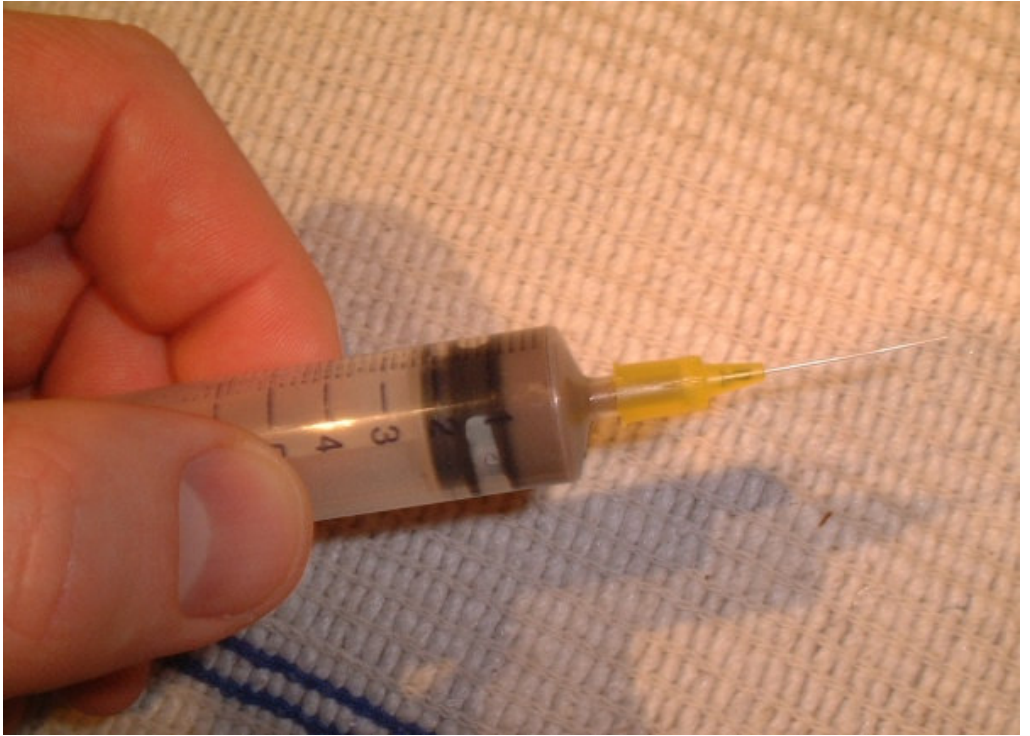
- 4) Pour the solution through a 100 micron sieve to remove lumpy bits that did not grind out properly.



- 5) Using the needle, draw 1 cc of the solution into the second syringe (using the needle to draw the solution prevents blockage when feeding back through the catheter)



6) Place the catheter onto the syringe



- 7) Add one drop of Clove Oil into a bowl of seawater. Use tank water and throw it away afterwards. Stir the water and oil so that it mixes (yes, it will)



- 8) Place the seahorse into the bowl. The clove oil in the water quickly subdues the seahorse and he'll get sleeeeeeee..... This step **MUST BE DONE QUICKLY**. The seahorse is actually dying under the Clove Oil anesthetic



9) . Insert the catheter into the snout. The catheter is at “A” for the photo. Move the catheter and the seahorse head to position “B” to get the catheter tip past the gills and to the back of the palate. Then SLOWLY inject the 1 ml solution into the seahorse. Most of this will actually go into the seahorse’s throat. This is why the seahorse MUST be sedated.

Remove the catheter. Now you need to revive the seahorse. Place the fish in a bowl of fresh half strength seawater that is heavily oxygenated. The fresh water removes the clove oil and the seahorse revives. If this does not happen almost immediately, then use the syringe with NO NEEDLE and GENTLY squirt water down the snout, which then goes out the gills and the seahorse revives. Place the seahorse back into the hospital tank.

