

Elizabethtown Area Animal Hospital

Care & Feeding of Orphan Kittens less than 5-6 weeks of age.

Ideally kitten should be placed with a lactating cat that will accept it and raise it as its own.

In most cases it will be necessary for someone to accept the responsibility to feed and care for the kitten(s) till the age of about 5 weeks.

To Feed:1) BEST to use a Milk replacer you can purchase at E A A Hosp. or at local pet store.

E A A Hosp. carriers: Nurturall 8oz & KMR for Kittens and bottle feeders.

- 2) <Feed Kittens Every 4-6 Hours, & follow direction on product.
- 3) After each feeding, swab the kittens anal-genital region with a cotton ball that had been dipped in warm water. This mimics the mother's cleaning behavior -> stimulates the kitten to urinate and defecate. [This is very important]

For emergency situations, or when temporarily out of formula, you can make a HOME MADE Cat milk substitute>:

Blend Together:

- 1/2 cup Whole Milk
- 1 Egg Yolk
- 1 drop - Infant Multiple Vitamins
- 1 Tums Tablet

<Should be fed 4 times daily, until old enough to eat on their own.

<As mentioned before, after feeding, the anal-genital area should be swabbed with a warm, wet cotton ball to stimulate urination and defecation.

Weaning Kittens:

Best to use a Name brand Kitten Food>, rather than store "No Name" brands.

Start offering solid food to kitten(s) when 4 1/2 - 5 weeks old.

- 1] Take kitten chow and mix with water/formula/milk to make like baby food.
- 2] Offer to kittens 3 - 4 times daily, before giving formula in bottle.
- 3] At 5wks age, put down dish of dry food so they can start changing to dry.
- 4] Stick to same food; if changing, mix together with first food. Sudden change in diet can cause diarrhea.