

KITTEN CARE 911

Why some kittens are abandoned:

Caught while moving them: If the mom is in the middle of moving her litter when you find 1-2 kittens, you have a choice. You can let her come back and retrieve her kitten or you can take it/them and care for them until they are adopted. Unlike other creatures (like birds) cats will take their young back after being touched by a human.

Abandonment at birth: Moms tends to leave some kittens behind at birth if she feels she can not care for, protect or have enough milk for the entire litter. This is usually done within the first 24 hours.

Abandonment after the first week: If the mom has kicked just one out of the litter, there is probably something congenitally wrong with him/her and you will probably loose the kitten. Mom cats can sense if there is something wrong with a kitten.

What to do when you find kittens:

NEVER FEED A CHILLED KITTEN



Determine whether or not the mother cat is in the area. Keep all children and animals away from the kitten(s) and as long as the kittens are dry and warm wait and watch for ½ hour to see if mom comes back and picks up the kitten. If she comes back and takes the kitten keep an eye on her to see where she moves the kitten. If she does not come back you will need to make arrangements to care for the kitten until you can get the kitten to your local animal shelter for care.



Kittens cannot control their own body temperature. They cannot shiver. They instinctively form kitten-heaps, snuggling on and under each other (often sliding off the top and burrowing into the bottom of the pile) and their mother keeps them warm by having the snuggle up to her body. Cold kittens cry for attention, but quickly become hypothermic and can no longer cry. A kitten's temperature will also affect its ability to feed and to digest food.



Check to see if the kitten has a full firm stomach. If you have a rectal thermometer, preferably a digital one, take the temperature, use a little Vaseline on the tip and gently insert it into the rectum of the kitten, which is the small opening closest to the underside of the tail. The temperature should be above 97° F degrees. If the temperature is below 97°F you will need to warm the kitten. The safest way to warm the kitten is to place it inside your shirt on your chest right next to your skin. This will take up to 1 hour. While warming the kitten you can place 1 drop of Karo syrup or honey on the gums or roof of the mouth of the kitten. You can also use a heating pad set on low with a towel folded over 3 times. Place the heating pad in the bottom of a box and place the folded towel on the pad. Take another towel roll it up lengthwise and use it to form a donut around the inside of the box so it keeps the kitten snug but also allows it to move off the heat if it gets too hot. Take the temperature every 20 minutes. Make sure that you do not overheat the kitten. Kittens temperature should be kept between 98°F and 101°F.

KITTEN FEEDING SCHEDULE

ONLY WHEN A KITTEN IS WARM YOU CAN BEGIN FEEDING IT.

Newborn to 1 week: Umbilical cord attached, eyes closed ears down

7-10 days old: Eyes begin to open, eyes are blue

3.5 to 4 weeks old: Become more active, lap water/milk, eat moist food, use litter box

Teeth: Another way to age the kittens is by the teeth. The ages are when the teeth break the skin or 'eruption of the teeth' happens, or when they break the surface.

Baby teeth:

Center (4) Incisors (front teeth between the canines) 2-3 weeks
Outer Incisors (still between the canines) 3-4 weeks
Canines 3-4 weeks
Upper molars (called a premolar) 2 months (8 weeks)
Lower molars (called a premolar) 4-5 weeks

Age	Average Weight	cc of Milk Replacer /day*	Number of Feedings/day
NB - 1 week	2 – 4 ounces	35	8 Every 2-3 hours
1-3 weeks	7 – 12 ounces	60 - 80	6 Every 4 hours
3 –4 weeks	12 – 16 ounces	110	4 Every 6 hours

* Follow the instructions on the milk replacer for mixing formula.
Never feed a kitten cows milk (milk for humans.)
Emergency formula: 8oz whole milk, 2 egg yolks, 1-teaspoon salad oil (refrigerate unused portion)

- ◆ **Feed kittens with an eyedropper, syringe or kitten baby bottle w/small hole.**
- ◆ **Place kitten feet down and allow kitten to suck from bottle. Do not squirt milk into mouth otherwise it could go into their lungs.**
- ◆ **All kittens up to 3 weeks old must be stimulated for elimination. With a soft cloth or wad of cotton dipped in warm water gently swab the anal and genital area multiple times.**
- ◆ **Poop should be brown or dark yellow. Green, light yellow or white indicate overfeeding. Dilute formula by ½ until normal color.**