

FOUND A KITTEN? HERE'S WHAT TO DO.

Why Some Kittens Are Abandoned:

- Interrupted During Relocation: If you find 1-2 kittens while the mother is moving her litter, you can either wait for her to return and take them or decide to care for them until they find new homes. Unlike birds, cats will accept their kittens back even after human contact.
- Abandonment at Birth: A mother cat may leave some kittens behind if she believes she cannot care for all of them. This typically occurs within the first 24 hours after birth.
- Abandonment After the First Week: If a mother cat rejects one kitten from the litter, it is often due to a congenital issue. Unfortunately, such kittens rarely survive, as the mother senses their condition.

Steps to Take When You Find Kittens:

- Check for a Momma Cat: First, ensure the mother is not nearby. Keep children and other animals away, and observe for 30 minutes to see if the mother returns. If she does, monitor where she moves the kitten. If she doesn't return, prepare to care for the kitten or surrender to the local city shelter as a last resort.
- Regulate Their Temperature: Kittens cannot regulate their body temperature and do not shiver. They huddle together for warmth and rely on their mother. Cold kittens will cry for attention but can become hypothermic and stop crying if not warmed quickly. Their body temperature affects their ability to feed and digest food. If possible, take the kitten's temperature using a rectal thermometer. Apply a bit of Vaseline to the tip, gently insert it into the kitten's rectum (the opening closest to the tail), and ensure the temperature is above 97°F. If below 97°F, warm the kitten by placing it inside your shirt against your skin, which can take up to an hour. Alternatively, use a heating pad on low with a folded towel. Place the heating pad in a box, with a rolled towel around the inside to create a snug area, but ensure the kitten can move away from the heat if it gets too hot. Check the temperature every 20 minutes. Maintain a temperature between 98°F and 101°F.

If you are unable to provide care for underaged kittens that are dirty, cold, appear sick, underweight, or dehydrated, you can take them to BARC located at 2700 Evella Street from 9am to 5pm. Please note, no appointment is necessary for young kittens in distress, but wait times for unscheduled animals being turned in to the shelter may take up to 3 hours. For this reason, we recommend arriving no later than 2pm.

While BARC is a better alternative than passing away on the streets, turning in an animal to the city shelter does not guarantee their safety. BARC doesn't have overnight staff, so if the kittens are too young to survive on their own, they may have to be euthanized if a plan isn't found before the shelter closes. If you can foster the kittens and provide care, we encourage you to do so. Contact local rescues and offer to foster them until a permanent home is found. Rescues need committed foster homes to take in pets, so by fostering, you help bridge the gap to a forever home.

How old are they and how do I feed them?

For an easy reference guide with photos to determine the age of kittens and therefore asses how to care for them, please visit www.kittenlady.org/age or scan the QR code:



Follow the instructions on the milk replacer package for mixing formula. Most pet supply stores such as PetSmart and Petco carry kitten milk and bottles/syringes for feeding, as does Amazon.com and some tractor supply stores. Never feed kittens cow's milk or any other milk intended for human consumption. Only feed a warm kitten.

- Feeding Method: Use an eyedropper, syringe, or a kitten baby bottle with a small hole. Keep the kitten's feet down and let it suck from the bottle. Do not squirt milk into its mouth to avoid aspiration into the lungs.
- Stimulation for Elimination: Kittens up to 3 weeks old need stimulation to eliminate waste. Use a soft cloth or cotton dipped in warm water to gently swab the anal and genital areas multiple times.
- Poop Color: Normal stool should be brown or dark yellow. Green, light yellow, or white stool indicates overfeeding. Dilute the formula by half until normal color resumes.

Feeding Schedule and Quantity for Underaged Kittens:

Age	Average Weight	Milk Replacer per Day	Number of Feedings per Day
Newborn-1 Week	2-4 ounces	35 cc	Every 2-3 hours (6 times/day)
1-3 Weeks	7-12 ounces	60-80 cc	Every 4 hours (4 times/day)
3-4 Weeks	12-16 ounces	110 cc	Every 6 hours

For comprehensive kitten care guides along with supply lists, training videos, and tutorials, visit www.kittenlady.org/kitten-care or scan the QR code:



Updated June 2024