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**Finding newborn or young kitten(s)**

A cat will usually have her babies in a sheltered place. For the first few days she hardly leaves this place or does for just a few minutes - because she is feeding her babies every 2-3 hours day and night.

So if you find a small kitten all alone in the middle of nowhere and in plain sight, you should retrieve it. Firstly check that there are no others around. Don't leave it for hours in the hope the mother will return. It may die from cold or starvation.

*As a general rule, kittens with closed eyes are under 10 days old.*

If you find several kittens - under a bush or in a secure place it's different. If the mother is not around you should monitor or check back several times that day to see if she has returned to them. Because sometimes she may be harmed, injured or unfortunately dead. If during the whole day you have never seen the mother, then you should collect the kittens.

**Once you have the kitten(s) in your care..**

FIRST THING TO DO:

Warm them up. Put them in a box or area with a fluffy blanket and a heat source. Make their environment soft and welcoming, teddy bears are very good because they remind them of their mother and/or siblings.

Once warm you can try to feed them. You'll need kitten milk formula. Formula can be purchased in pharmacies, vets and some pet stores. If you can’t get this you can buy goats milk at the supermarket. You'll need to warm the milk. Test the temperature on your wrist to make sure it’s not too hot. And always feed them on their fronts, not lying on their backs like you would a human baby.

Depending on the age of the kitten(s) you'll need to feed them regularly. See the kitten feeding chart below. Weigh them to give an indication on their age.

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| **Age** | **Weight** | **Amount per feed** | **Feed every** |
| 0-1 wks | 50-150g | 2-6ml | 2hrs |
| 1-2 wks | 150-250g | 6-10ml | 2-3 hrs |
| 2-3 wks | 250-350g | 10-14ml | 3-4hrs |
| 3-4 wks | 350-450g | 14-18ml | 4-5hrs |
| 4-5 wks | 450-550g | 18-22ml | 5-6hrs |
| 5-8 wks | 550-850g | Weaning | 6hrs |

After each feed you'll need to help them go to the toilet. Their mother would normally do this stimulating them by licking them. Using a cotton pad or tissue rub in a circular motion the kitten's genital area to make them pee and poop (colour is yellow/orange) and poop is a toothpaste texture and yellow in colour. This is normal until they are around 4 weeks old. In general they pee very easily, for poop it takes a little longer.

Weigh the kittens daily. A 10g increase in weight per day is good progress. Once they're 3-4 weeks old it's advisable to get them a health check at the vets and start their worming treatments.

From 6 weeks old they'll be ready to wean onto more solid food. Start by making a mixture paste with kitten milk and cat biscuits or kitten meat.

You can look to find them new homes from 8-10 weeks old.

**IMPORTANT**

Until kittens reach 5 weeks of age they're unable to control their own sugar levels and body temperature. If you see a kitten becoming lethargic or withdrawn you’ll need to act quickly. See our guide on fading kitten syndrome which can help save lives.