

Neonatal Kitten Packet

A photograph of three very young, fluffy kittens on a white, wrinkled fabric surface. One kitten is sitting upright in the upper left, looking towards the right with its blue eyes open. Two other kittens are lying down in the foreground, their eyes closed as if sleeping. The kitten on the right is a dark brown tabby, while the one on the left is a lighter brown and white tabby. The overall scene is soft and intimate.

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Various Online Tutorials:

Scan QR code with phone camera to see
Bottle Baby Resources



How to Set Up Space
for foster kittens



How to safely
Bottle Feed



Stimulating Kittens to
use the Bathroom



When to wean Kittens to
wet food

Kitten Feeding

How Often Should I feed my foster kitten / kittens?



1-2 Weeks old

Feed Kitten Milk Replacer

Feed every 2-3 hours

3-4 Weeks Old

Feed Kitten Milk Replacer and a mix of wet cat can food (slurry)

Feed every 4 hours

5-6 Weeks Old

Feed a Mix of dry kitten food and wet cat food.

Feed every 6 hours or when they seem hungry.

7-8 weeks old

Feed Wet cat food and Dry kitten food

Allow access to at all times.



Bottle/Syringe Basics

kitten weight and feeding chart

AGE	WEIGHT	AMOUNT PER FEEDING	SCHEDULE
0-1 week	50-150 grams	2-6 ml	Every 2 hours
1-2 weeks	150-250 grams	6-10 ml	Every 2-3 hours
2-3 weeks	250-350 grams	10-14 ml	Every 3-4 hours
3-4 weeks	350-450 grams	14-18 ml	Every 4-5 hours
4-5 weeks	450-550 grams	18-22 ml	Every 5-6 hours
5-8 weeks	550-850 grams	(weaning; offer ample wet food)	Every 6 hours



Kitten Temperature Chart

It's important to keep kittens warm because kittens under 5 weeks can't generate heat or control their body temperature like older cats can. Never put a kitten directly on a heating source there needs to be something between them.

Age	Temperature
0-1 week	95-99°F
2-3 weeks	97-100°F
4 weeks	99-101°F

How can I tell if its too hot?

Check the temperature with your hand:

Before placing a kitten on a heating pad, always test the temperature with your hand to ensure it's warm but not hot. If it is too hot you may need to place it under a blanket.

Observe Behavior:

Kittens will usually move away from the heat source if it is too hot.

Panting is a warning sign:

While cats don't pant frequently like dogs, panting can indicate overheating and is a serious sign to watch out for.



Litter Training



Assemble supplies: At the very least, you'll need a litter box and litter. You can place a mat under the litter box to minimize mess. Choose safe litter with minimal dust such as pine pellets. If you have a kitten or a cat with mobility issues, choose a box with low sides that's easy for them to get in and out of. Place the box in a quiet, warm, low-traffic area of your home.

Show your kitten: Once you have the litter box(es) set up, it's time to introduce your kitten. Set your kitten in the box to allow exploration and sniffing. Avoid interacting or distracting your kitten while they're in the box, and don't move the box once you've shown them where it is. Put your kitten in the box after meals and naps to encourage normal elimination. In addition, any time you see your kitten sniffing or crouching, like they're about to go, is a great time to jump in and get them to the litter box for litter training — so be vigilant!

Be positive and patient: While you're litter box training, there are bound to be accidents. Don't punish or scold your kitten; just clean and keep reinforcing the training. Some kittens will get it right away, but some can take a month to figure it out. When you do see your kitten using the box successfully, reinforce the behavior with treats and praise.





Fast Facts

Kitten Stool Chart

Stool Color	Notes		Action
Brown	Normal		No additional action needed.
Mucous	Clear (poss. slight yellow or white) slimy substance. Bowel irritation. Possible internal parasites.		Needs attention.
Bloody - red	Red blood seen in stool or irritation at rectum or anus. Bowel irritation. Viral or bacterial infection.		See vet ASAP – immediately if lots of blood.
Black	Tarry; possibly with large gelatinous clots. Bleeding in upper GI tract. Exception is meconium which is very dark – possibly with greenish tinge.		See vet immediately if not meconium. Meconium is seen at 1st defecation at 1 or 2 days old.
Orange	May indicate liver or gallbladder issue.		See vet.
Yellow	With a very foul smell may indicate coccidia. Can be bacterial overgrowth/imbalance.		See vet.
Greenish	Severe bacterial infection.		Needs treatment.
Gray	Overfeeding; lack of probiotics or bile.		Reduce food intake and/or frequency; add probiotics.
White	Severe bacterial imbalance or lack of flora. Life-threatening!		Give probiotics and seek veterinary care immediately.

Consistency Notes:

- Any stool softer than toothpaste consistency is cause for concern. Kittens with liquid diarrhea are at risk of dehydration and death. Seek treatment immediately.
- Kittens straining to defecate or who have not defecated for more than two days may be constipated and need to be seen by a veterinarian.



Fostering and your personal animals

Ideally, you should keep a foster animal separated from your pets for at least two weeks after arrival in your home. Fosters should have their own space away from other animals

Most animals won't love having babies around-DON'T LEAVE THEM
UNSUPERVISED

Separate the kitten: Confine the foster kitten to a designated room with all its necessities (food, water, litter box, bed) for the first few days.

Introduce scents: Encourage scent exchange by switching blankets or beds between the foster kitten and your existing pets. You can also rub a towel on each animal and place it under the other's food dish.

Start slowly: After a few days, introduce your pets to the kitten through a barrier, like a baby gate or screen door, allowing them to see and smell each other without direct contact.



Controlled introductions: Supervise all interactions closely, initially starting with short periods and gradually increasing the time.

Allow free roam: Once you're confident that the interactions are going well, you can slowly allow the kitten and your pets to explore together freely.

Fading Kitten Emergency Protocol

What is “fading kitten” syndrome?

Fading kitten syndrome refers to a neonatal kitten that is failing to thrive and suddenly “crashes”—suddenly becomes ill or unresponsive, even if it was previously healthy. While many things can cause fading kitten syndrome, the two most common causes are hypothermia (being cold) and hypoglycemia (low blood sugar). There could also be underlying issues, such as a congenital defect, disease, etc. that may not be treatable. There is no guarantee that a fading kitten will survive even with immediate medical intervention, but following this emergency protocol could save its life.

Symptoms:

- Hypothermia/low temperature- feeling cool or cold to the touch
- lethargy-inability to stand or hold head up, unresponsive to touch
- Excessive Meowing- particularly loud, pained cries.
- Dehydration
- Pale gums



Emergency Protocol

1. Provide Warmth- wrap kitten in a blanket or towel with a heat source.
2. Make sure heat source is not directly touching the kitten but is covered by a cloth or blanket.
3. Don't have a heat source? Put uncooked rice into a sock, knot the end and microwave for 1-2 minutes.
4. **To increase blood sugar, use a small amount of Karo syrup or mix some sugar with warm water. Place a few drops of the sugar source into the kittens mouth every 3 minutes until kitten is responsive.**
5. If kitten cannot swallow, rub the sugar source onto its gums.

Suckling Kittens Troubleshooting

Suckling behavior is natural for kittens. Kitten will often “nurse” on mom between feedings even though they aren’t getting any milk. It is a comfort behavior and will usually stop as they get older. Even when kittens are bottle fed, they will sometimes try to nurse on other items, including their siblings. Some kittens may suckle on the fur or nipples of their siblings, but more often they choose the genitalia. Unfortunately, suckling-particularly on the genitals of a male kitten can quickly become a very serious medical issue.



Not only can this behavior cause stomach upset and diarrhea in the suckling kitten, but swelling and potential blockages on the kitten being suckled. If you notice your foster kitten are suckling inappropriately, it is important to take action immediately.

- Intervene quickly. This behavior can become habitual fast. The first time you see a kitten attempting to nurse on another kitten, separate them for at least 2-3 days.
 - You can use a spare carrier or tall sided open box to separate young kittens.
 - You can try cutting feet holes in an old sock so they can wear it as a form of protecting from the other kittens. Make sure they don’t get too hot
 - Make sure all housing areas have a heat source and blanket in a safe location.
 - Remember, its only temporary! Your foster kitten will be fine without their siblings for a few days. Breaking the suckling habit is way more important than the lost socialization time.
- Make sure they are full. Suckling could be a sign that your kittens are hungry, especially in young bottle babies who mostly eat and sleep.
- Provide an alternative. Very soft, fuzzy can provide a safe place for kittens to suckle. You can place a heating pad or snuggle safe disc underneath the blanket to make it seem more like mom cat.