



## Kitten Care: Handling an Abandoned Young Kitten

It's not unusual to find a lone kitten abandoned, where the mother has left it behind (maybe runt of the litter, bad mothering or other circumstances), or where the mom has died.

Neonatal kittens are considered from age 0 days to 4 weeks old.

### Your Foster Parent Kit:

#### For Neonatal Kittens:

- ☒ Food: Kitten formula, also known as Kitten Milk Replacer (KMR). Can be found at pet supply stores or from a vet. We recommend Aquapet: +254 738 849706 or Petzoneke: +254 745 700700
- ☒ Bottle, eye dropper, syringe, also found at vets or pet supply stores. We recommend buying from YaYa Pet Shop +254 717 100166
- ☒ Heating pad, hot water bottle, or infrared lamp
- ☒ Soft, fleece blankets. Baby blankets are perfect
- ☒ Soft washcloths, unscented wet wipes or cotton pads
- ☒ Paper towels, tissues
- ☒ A bed: Carrier or kennel; a box will work for kittens 1-2 weeks old. Or you can improvise with a tall and wide basin.

#### At the weaning stage (4 - 8 weeks)

- ☒ Kitten food, mince meat, for the weaning stage
- ☒ Shallow plates for serving food.
- ☒ Shallow litter pan. Kittens can go to a litter from week 4. Alternatively, you can use carton lids, shallow trays etc.
- ☒ Litter (clumping) - available in supermarkets & pet stores.

## Caring for the kitten

### 1. Keep them warm:

A Hot water bottle wrapped in a towel will do. Make sure you change the water every 6 hours or so. Cover with a towel or thick cloth to avoid burns. Ensure the bottle is tightly sealed.

### 2. Feed them:

Kitten formula (Kitten Milk Replacement), or lactose free milk are great. You can also use camel milk or goat milk where available.

Avoid cow's milk as much as possible. If you only have cow's milk, dilute 2 parts milk with 3 parts water.

If you can't get kitten milk, use a mix of



- ☒ 2 tbsp plain yogurt, no flavors/sweeteners
- ☒ 1 egg yolk, no whites
- ☒ 1 tsp oil, preferably pure natural oils like coconut
- ☒ 1 tbsp water.

Refrigerate the mix when not in use.

That should feed 2 kittens, so add accordingly as they eat. If it remains, you can refrigerate for one day.

If you can't get a feeding bottle, get a small / medium syringe and use that instead (without needle). If not, a plastic teaspoon may do the trick. They need to be fed every 3 - 4 hours. You will need to help them stimulate their bowels with a wet tissue/cotton pad until they learn how to pee and poo by themselves. This should be done at every feeding session, before and after feeding.

### 3. Vet Check:

As soon as possible, get a vet to check their health, especially for fleas, eye infection, bowel movement, healthy feeding, injuries and skin infections.

For the vet contacts, please check the pinned list of registered and certified vets on the top of the group. You can also ask for recommendations within the group.

Also start them on the deworming regimen, as well as vaccines:

### Vaccine & Deworming schedule

- ☒ 4 weeks Deworming
- ☒ 6 weeks Deworming
- ☒ 8 weeks 1st cat flu vaccine
- ☒ 12 weeks Cat flu booster
- ☒ 16 weeks Cat flu booster, Rabies vaccine
- ☒ 6 months Neuter/spay

Repeat:

- ☒ Deworming, every 3 - 4 months, for the rest of their lives
- ☒ Rabies and cat flu vaccine, annually

### 4. Love them:

They need all your attention and love. If you can't manage this, try and get someone to foster, then re-home them. They will do well to be socialized to humans to make them adoptable to loving homes

### 5. Use Available Tools:

Google is your friend. 😊

Here's a good place to start:



☞ Kitten lady video guide: The entire series has tips for each stage and how to handle issues with kittens. <https://www.youtube.com/playlist...>

☞ Read this too: <http://www.saveacat.org/orphaned-kittens.html>

*What else do you recommend, for those with experience?*

If you have questions, please contact: Naomi, [naomi.mutua@gmail.com](mailto:naomi.mutua@gmail.com)