



Fostering Under-Socialized Kittens

Under-socialized, neglected, and frightened kittens may be the most challenging to foster.

Many arrive never having lived indoors among people, with minimal human contact during their critical imprinting stage. These kittens may have never been inside a house, may not be litter trained, and may have never experienced kindness from a human. They will require a great deal of attention, patience, and time from their foster family. Under-socialized kittens must be closely monitored to reduce the chance of escape or destructive behavior. They frequently require fostering for at least a month while they acquire the social skills that will make them treasured lifelong companions for a lucky family.

- Under-socialized kittens are considered “high risk” fosters. Some will never respond to human attention enough to become adoption candidates. If this occurs, outcomes beyond regular adoptions into a home are discussed with the Tiplings team.
- Under-socialized kittens are housed best in smaller rooms with just a few hiding places (bathrooms and crates are ideal). The kitten can be found more easily this way.
- Squeeze ups (like Churus or Delectables) and Canned food can be used as a treat or for enticement and should be given when you are able to spend time with the kitten, if possible. Do not withhold food but make it enticing enough for the kitten to come out of hiding when a person is in the room.

Daily Duties Handle the kitten: talking, stroking, brushing, lifting paws, flexing the nails, check ears, mouth, and eyes. Touch the tail!

Additional Tips and Tricks:

- Leave the TV or a radio on at low volume so they get used to hearing many different voices, recommend using a talk station.
- Use a back scratcher to socialize – extend to the furthest setting with squeeze up, and then shorten until you are petting the kitty.