



Animal Outreach Of the Mother Lode

Foster Handbook

Updated March 2026



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Dear Foster Parent,

Thank you for joining the Animal Outreach foster team and opening your heart to kittens and cats in need! Fostering truly saves lives and we are honored to have you as part of our team.

As a foster with Animal Outreach, we will provide you with all the needed supplies. Every animal going into foster care will receive on-going medical care at Animal Outreach through our onsite veterinarians and veterinary care professionals who have years of experience providing care to the tiniest of felines. Supplies which are provided to foster include, but are not limited to: dry food, canned food, litter, litter boxes, formula, crates, and toys.

We provide this handbook to act as a brief manual for fostering. Included are the shelter's policies and procedures for animal care, medical care, and adoption. These policies and procedures will include daily care and recording of health and behavior, plan of action in case of emergency, and the steps to take if someone is interested in adopting your foster cat. Please be sure to read through the entirety of the handbook.

Thank you again for joining our foster family and for caring so much about the animals. Please feel free to contact the shelter any time with any questions.

Sincerely,

AO Foster Team



About Us

- Animal Outreach has been operating since 1992
- On average, we adopt out 1,600 cats and kittens every year
- Through our low-cost spay and neuter clinic, we annually alter approximately 6,000 animals
- All spay and neuter surgeries are performed in house by our veterinary team
- Animal Outreach of the Mother Lode is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
- All donations to Animal Outreach are tax-deductible

Animal Outreach of the Mother Lode Mission Statement

Reduce the number of cats euthanized in the area by providing low cost spay/neuter programs and education of the public. Protect the welfare of the animals we come in contact with, and to promote the humane treatment and well being of these animals by:

- Providing shelter and medical care for stray or abandoned cats in El Dorado, Sacramento and Placer counties.
- Responding with our personal commitment, humane sensitivity, compassion, and technical skill to the needs of these animals.
- Actively promoting suitable adoptions of the animals.
- Encouraging the spay and neutering of dogs and cats to ensure the numbers of unwanted animals be kept to a minimum.
- Helping to prevent cruelty to animals by promoting animal welfare legislation and education.



Adoption Locations

Animal Outreach of the Mother
Lode 6101 Enterprise Dr. STE B
Diamond Springs, CA 95619
(530) 642-2287

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Saturday: 10am - 4pm
Sunday: Closed

PetSmart Adoption Center
2705 E. Bidwell St
Folsom, CA 95630

Saturday & Sunday: 12pm - 3pm
Monday - Friday: Call Adoption Coordinator **Jackie Silva (916) 941-1100**

PetSmart Adoption Center
6434 Sunrise Blvd
Citrus Heights, CA 95610

Saturday & Sunday: 11:00am - 3:30pm
Monday - Friday: Call Adoption Coordinator **Michelle Lee (916) 459-6676**

PetCo Adoption Center
3910 Missouri Flat Rd
Placerville, CA 95667

Saturday & Sunday: 12:00pm - 3:00pm
Monday - Friday: Call Adoption Coordinator **Garry Saperstein (530)391-6240**



Foster Contact List

Foster Team- Main Line:

(530) 642-2287 ex. 3

**leave a voicemail & one of the foster team members will get back to you within 1 business day*

Foster Team- Medical Emergency

After Hours:

(530) 324-5373

**text or call this number with any medical emergency*

**If you have an emergency & you cannot get through to someone fast enough during open business hours - please just come to the main shelter with your foster*

Meet The Foster Team

Lead:

Donna M - Foster Coordinator

Assistance:

Dallas B - Director of Operations

Val M - Clinic Coordinator

Roland J - Reception/Data Assistance

Who do I call...?

General foster questions, refill on supplies, behavior questions?

- Foster Team at the main foster line

Change in eating, diarrhea, any medical issue during regular hours?

- Foster Team at the main foster line

To schedule spay/neuter appointments, vaccination appointments, or wellness checks?

- Foster Team at the main foster line

Possible Medical Emergency After Hours?

- Emergency number

Fosters must receive approval before seeking emergency treatment outside of Animal Outreach.



Adoption Information

It's not uncommon for fosters to have friends and family express interest in adopting their foster animals. While we encourage fosters to help find homes, it is important to keep in mind Animal Outreach's adoption policies. If you do have someone who is a serious candidate for adoption, the following steps can be taken.

1. We trust your judgement that your friend or family member has been screened by you. You should have a conversation with the adopter making sure you feel comfortable that they will be able to support their new adopted animal financially and they have a plan for that animal if something happens to the adopter.

2. When the fosters are ready for adoption, 2-3 days after spay/neuter, let the potential adopter know the day and time you will be at the adoption site. They can meet you there to fill out an application and contract. The kitten/cat MUST be present in order to verify their microchip number. Animal Outreaches policy is: WE WILL NOT HOLD A CAT/KITTEN! Its important that the potential adopter be on time.

3. All adopters, even fosters, must pay the appropriate adoption fee. First-time "foster failures" for individuals who have fostered 2 or more cats are eligible for a one-time discounted rate on their first adoption. First time "foster failures" will only need to pay \$55. Our regular adoption rates are as follows:

- Kitten: \$110
- Adult: \$85
- Garden Cat: \$45
- Barn Cat: \$35

All adoptions are subject to a \$5 processing fee. (ex. kittens are \$115 total)

*If you don't have homes lined up for all you fosters refer to Page 13, "Is Your Foster Ready for Adoption?"



Fostering Guidelines

Animals are placed into foster care through Animal Outreach for several reasons. Provided below are general foster guidelines for all animals in the Animal Outreach foster program. Additionally, we will include instructions for caring for nursing mothers, orphaned kittens, and for cats who are recovering from medical treatment or injury.

Housing:

- All foster animals must be housed inside in a clean environment, a large enclosure, bathroom or spare room.
- Fosters must be housed inside or in a temperature-controlled garage. AO can provide crates or playpens if needed.
- The area must be able to be regularly and thoroughly disinfected, especially between litters.
- That includes litterbox, bedding, toys and food/water bowls. This can be done with warm water and soap, diluted bleach or Rescue provided by AO. If using diluted bleach kittens/cats shouldn't be in the room until it is dry.

Food and Water:

- Before leaving the shelter, Animal Outreach staff will go over the proper amounts and times to feed your foster animal and will provide all food.
- Animal Outreach will provide all food for our foster animals. We contract with Hill's Science Diet.
- If you choose to feed a different brand, you are financially responsible for purchasing. Please transition the animals back onto Hill's Science Diet the week before they go up for adoption.
- Never feed foster animals a "raw" diet.
- Water should be available at all times.
- Monitor food and water intake daily.
- Changing the foster's food should be done slowly over a 10 day period to insure they don't get diarrhea.
- Your foster kittens' food water intake should be monitored daily, and the foster coordinator informed if your foster begins drinking or eating more or less than normal, or if they stop consuming altogether.

Interaction with Children and Pets:

- Children should always be supervised when interacting with foster animals.
- Everyone should watch their steps when in the kitten room.
- We recommend you keep your resident animals completely separate from your family pets. If you want to introduce fosters to family pets, make sure your pets are up to date on vaccines and preventatives and wait until your fosters have had two vaccines.
- Animal Outreach is not liable if your animals get sick.



Responsibilities and Policies

Please keep in mind the following responsibilities and policies to ensure a successful foster experience:

- Follow direction given by AO staff
- Report any bites that break the skin, per California Law. Your foster may need to be quarantined. Let us know if you can do that at home or if we need to quarantine the animal at our Diamond Springs facility.
- AO will provide any and all medical care for your fosters. If you seek medical care from a vet outside of Animal Outreach without prior approval, we will not reimburse the cost.
- We no longer foster pregnant queens. We humanely terminate the pregnancy during spay.
- Please don't go against the advice of staff. Doing so could compromise your ability to foster for Animal Outreach.
- Please contact us immediately if your kitten is in distress. **Emergency phone numbers are located on page 4 of the Foster Handbook.**
- Please ask us any questions if you are unsure.
- Weight your kittens daily and keep a weight log. If kittens are losing weight or not gaining weight, contact the foster team.
- All foster animals must be kept safe from personal pets, children, and wildlife. Secure your doors, windows and window screens before taking your foster animals home.
- If you foster with another organization, please tell us if you are currently fostering.
- In order to provide the best care for our foster animals and our foster parents, we try to limit each household to 4 animals.
- Please do not take in or transfer to any AO fosters without first contacting the foster team.
- Please contact us if you need another foster to temporarily take over care of your foster animals.
- Please follow all disinfecting and sanitizing protocols



Before Bringing Fosters Into Your Home

- Make sure your resident animals are up-to-date on vaccines and preventatives. Animal Outreach is not liable if your pet contracts illness from a foster pet.
- Have a place picked out to keep your foster animals away from your resident pets during the first few weeks of fostering.
- Remember to wash your hands before and after handling your foster animals.
- Routinely disinfect the foster kitten's quarters.
- We recommend choosing a room without carpeting.
- Disinfect all surfaces, toys, etc.
- Check the list of common poisonous substances at the end of this handbook to make sure they are not accessible to your foster animals.

Disinfecting:

- The best way to disinfect the area is to place the kittens in a carrier and then clean litter box and food bowls and remove all organic material and fecal debris.
- Soak the litter box with a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water-Good for 24 hours after mixing) or Rescue disinfectant (provided by AO, diluted to 1:16 and good for 90 days after mixing) for at least 10minutes. Fosters should be removed from the room until it is dry.
- All surfaces, bowls, toys, etc. need to be disinfected (so you probably want to keep kittens in a room without carpeting. We recommend hard surfaces for kitten rooms).



If you're handling a baby kitten or puppy, read this first—or you may cause unintentional harm!

Baby animals have extremely fragile immune systems, and improper handling can cause life-threatening illness.

BABY SAFE BIOSECURITY



USE CLEAN HANDS

You can carry pathogens on your hands or gloves that are deadly.

- Don't touch dirty surfaces—doorknobs, faucets, supplies, even your phone—and then touch a baby or an item a baby will use.
- **Option 1: Wash hands** with hot, soapy water before and after every interaction. *Hand sanitizer is not effective against animal pathogens.*
- **Option 2: Wear fresh gloves**...properly! Gloves are not magical shields; they will pick up particles, too. Don't touch common areas with the same glove you use to handle a baby. Change gloves between litters!
- Don't allow the public to touch baby animals.



PRACTICE FOOD SAFETY

Improper food handling leads to bacterial diarrhea that can be fatal.

- Don't reheat formula more than once; it grows bacteria quickly.
- Don't leave a bottle out on a counter or in a kennel. Dump it or put it in the fridge.
- Discard wet food after 1 hour; don't leave it sitting out.
- Label all opened containers and prepared formula with dates; refrigerate and discard according to product label.
- Wash bottles, nipples, and dishes with hot soapy water between use.



AVOID CROSS-CONTAMINATION

Assume every item and surface in the shelter is contaminated.

- Use a pee pad or clean towel as a protective barrier for surfaces like exam tables, feeding stations, and scales.
- Only offer clean items. If something has touched the floor, common areas, dirty hands, or another animal, it should not go back to the kitten or puppy until disinfected.
- Cardboard is single use. If an animal has already used it, it's contaminated. Toss it.
- Kittens and puppies should not be held in pockets or against clothing. Limit contact with anything outside of their safe space.



SEPARATE FROM OTHERS

Healthy-looking kittens and puppies can still harbor infectious diseases.

- Only house baby animals with their intake group; mixing litters can cause disease to spread before symptoms appear.
- Use dedicated supplies and bottles for each group.
- Even in foster homes, keep baby animals quarantined for 14 days to monitor for illness and prevent outbreaks.
- Isolate from high-traffic areas. Visual access is safe, but only trained staff should handle little babies.



DISINFECT EVERYTHING

Don't just clean—*disinfect* to kill invisible pathogens.

- Before you disinfect, clean to completely remove all visible debris.
- Use a veterinary-approved disinfectant that kills viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi.
- Mix disinfectants properly and follow the required **contact time**. Disinfectant is only effective if it stays wet for the time indicated on the product label.
- Only offer items that can be disinfected or thrown away.
- Porous items should be disinfected in the washing machine or tossed.



Biosecurity saves little lives!

Learn more about neonate care at KittenLady.org



KITTEN LADY



Kitty Proofing Your Home

Cat-proofing and especially kitten-proofing your home is much the same as child-proofing it! That means hiding or removing cords, removing small items that kittens can choke on, etc. Use the following tips as a guide to make your foster room and home safe for the cats and kittens:

- Kitty-proofing is pretty much the same as child-proofing!
- Make sure garbage, cleaning supplies, and medicine are secure
- Get into the habit of checking your refrigerator, oven, washer, dryer, freezer, dishwasher, etc. before doors get closed.
- Watch for hot irons and heavy objects a rambunctious cat could knockdown.
- Use non-toxic products for cleaning. Items ending in "Sol" can be toxic to cats.
- Review the toxic houseplant list at the back of the Foster Handbook.

Keep these items out of reach of kittens:

- Rubber bands, hair-ties, paper clips, needles, dental floss, fish hooks, and razors.
- Do not give kittens any kind of thread, yarn, cord, or string to play with. These can do irreparable damage to the GI tract.
- Plastic bags, balloons, and dryer sheets.
- Tuck away all electrical and charging cords.
- Do not let kittens play with feather toys without supervision.

Cats are very curious and will get into almost anything!



Supplies

- **A secure playpen, crate, or room** is ideal for housing foster kittens. Kittens are escape artists and love getting into things! Having a safe 'kitten proofed' space for your fosters to be in will make fostering more fun for you and safe for the kittens!
- **Multiple litter boxes** should be available for a litter of kittens. A general guideline is to have a litter box within 10ft of your kitten at all times to ensure the use of it.
- **All litter, used for kittens, should be non-clumping.** Kittens are curious by nature and will often try to eat their litter. Clumping litter poses danger to the kitten's body if ingested or the dust inhaled. World Best Litter is provided by Animal Outreach. It is a clumping litter, but is safe for kittens.
- **All water bowls should be heavy and hard to tip.** Water bowls should also be stainless steel or porcelain/ceramic. Avoid plastic, as plastic is difficult to disinfect because it is so porous. Multiple food swallow bowls are necessary when feeding a litter of kittens. One swallow bowl should be available 24/7 with dry food. Plates, paper plates, or shallow bowls can be used to provide wet food. If feeding a larger litter of kittens, multiple plates should be used so they don't crowd and push the smaller kittens away from the food.
- **Kittens and cats should be fed the Hill's Science Diet dry food provided by Animal Outreach unless directed otherwise by an AO staff member.** Canned wet food will be provided when available or can be purchased at your expense if desired. Avoid buying fish based canned food which can cause diarrhea. Please **do not** feed "raw" diets under any circumstances.
- **If you decide to provide your own food** other than what is provided by AO, it must be labeled for kittens and you are financially responsible for purchase. We ask that you **transition your fosters to our recommended food the week before they go out for adoption to avoid GI issues** that would delay them being available to the public.
- **Clean towels and blankets** should be available for use in kitten playpens, carriers, and other places. These items are available through Animal Outreach but kittens aren't picky so use what you have!
- **Digital scales** are a nice item to have to monitor your foster kitten's weight. Kitchen food scales are an inexpensive way to acquire this handy tool and can often be found at thrift stores. Scales may be available to borrow from Animal Outreach as needed.
- **Heat pads and warming discs** are necessary for maintaining the temperature of kittens under the age of 4 weeks. These are available to borrow from Animal Outreach.



Intake and Vaccination/Deworming Schedule

At intake your foster animal will get two kinds of dewormers, vaccines, flea preventative, and an exam. The kitten/cat will have its mouth, ears, and eyes checked, assess body condition and hydration, look for any wounds or rashes, check for ringworm with a UV light, and may have temperature taken. If your kitten has fleas, they may shed dying fleas for at least 24 hours after receiving treatment. To ensure fleas don't spread to your resident animals, make sure you keep them separate, vacuum any carpeting, and keep your animals on flea preventatives.

Dewormer:

- **Strongid (pyrantel).**
 - One dose is given at 4 weeks old or at intake and a follow-up dose is given 21 days later. This medication treats roundworms, hookworms, and pinworms. Worms may come up in vomit after deworming.
- **Droncit (praziquantel)**
 - One dose is given at 6 weeks old or at intake. This medication treats tapeworms.

Vaccinations:

- **FVRCP**
 - This vaccination prevents Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, which is caused by the feline herpes virus, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia. This vaccine is also called the "distemper vaccine." This vaccination requires multiple doses 21 days apart from 4 weeks old until the kitten is 16 weeks or more.
- **Rabies**
 - The rabies vaccine is given at 12 weeks of age. Prevents against the Rabies virus which is 100% fatal and transmissible to humans, and so is required by law.

Flea Treatment/Preventative:

- **Capstar (nitenpyram)**
 - Capstar is suspended in water and given rectally to kill live fleas. The fleas will start dying within 20 minutes to an hour after administration. You may see dying fleas jumping off the kitten. It does not kill eggs, however, and only lasts about 24 hours.
- **Selarid (selamectin)**
 - This is our monthly flea and tick preventative. It also treats and prevents earmites and sarcoptic mange (scabies). It is given at 4 weeks old (or earlier if they are flea infested) or upon intake and repeated every 30 days to prevent flea infection.



Spay or Neuter Surgery

- Kittens must be 2 pounds for surgery.
- If kittens are experiencing symptoms of URI, diarrhea, a communicable disease, or is dehydrated or underweight, we will not do the surgery that day. If your kitten has been treated for a medical issue it must be medically cleared by a foster coordinator, RVT, or Veterinarian.
- Drop off for surgery is between 7-7:45am. All cats must be secured in a carrier.
- Kittens under 6 months of age can have 1tsp of food the morning of surgery. All cats can have access to water.
- Latest pickup is 4:30. Please arrange with a foster coordinator beforehand if you need a later pickup. If a prior arrangement has already been made for your foster to stay at AO after surgery, please let reception know in the morning when you drop off.
- Kittens with a mother should be kept separate from her after surgery to prevent them from suckling on her incision site.
- Kittens should be confined to one room and kept quiet for a day or two.
- Please keep an eye out for any excessive swelling, redness, or discharge coming from the incision site.
- After surgery, contact an adoption center to reserve your fosters a cage. See page 3 of the Foster Handbook for contact information.
- See page 13 for tips and tricks for preparing your foster animals for adoptions.



Is Your Foster Ready for Adoption?

Cats/kittens will be ready for their new forever home 2-5 days after spay/neuter surgery. The younger they are put up for adoption, the faster they will be adopted! If you want to adopt your foster pet or if you have a friend or family member that wants to adopt, see page 5 of the Foster Handbook for instructions on adoption. The cat/kitten **must** be present at the adoption site to verify the microchip number and that all vaccines are current.

Prepare for adoption

Get at least one great, well-lit, crisp and clear photo of each of your fosters, looking at the camera. Upload the photo(s) onto the Animals First Foster Portal.

Come up with a short great bio description of the cat/kittens traits and` personality. Be honest but also add details to encourage adoptions. Have they been raise around other cats, dogs, or children? Are they playful, friendly, love to be held, funny, silly, shy at first, or lap kitty? Do they have a favorite toy? Would they love to have another kitty at home to play with? Are they bonded to another cat/kitten that should be adopted together? Enter their bio description on Animals First Foster Portal by clicking on the animal name and then selecting 'Please enter a bio'.

Adoption Location

If you do not have a home lined up for your foster kittens, they may return to our main shelter in Diamond Springs or be transported to one of the PetSmart locations for adoption 2-5 days after spay/neuter. They need to be cleared for adoption and current on all services. Please contact the appropriate location to ensure that there is space for your kittens before bringing them in. Their paperwork you received at time of surgery must go with the kittens/cats. The cats going to PetSmart must be current on their vaccines.

- **Animal Outreach of the Mother Lode:** 6101 Enterprise Dr.,Diamond Springs (530) 642-2287
- **PetSmart Adoption Center:** 2705 E. Bidwell St, Folsom. Call or text **Jackie Silva** (916) 941-1100 (Folsom Petsmart Adoption Coordinator)
- **PetSmart Adoption Center:** 6434 Sunrise Blvd., Citrus Heights. Call or text **Michelle Lee** (916) 459-6676 (Citrus Heights Petsmart Adoption Coordinator)
- **PetCo Adoption Center:** 3910 Missouri Flat Rd, Placerville, CA 95667. Call Adoption Coordinator **Garry Saperstein** (530)391-6240

When you bring your cat/kittens into the arranged adoption location make sure to bring the medical paperwork provided at spay/neuter surgery including the microchip information. If they are eating food other than the AO provided Hill's Science Diet, please bring some of their food to the adoption location. After they are delivered to the adoption location, send a text message to 530-453-0330, Animal Outreach front desk, and request that your kitten's status be marked as 'available' and let them know the location where they have been placed.

Thank you for fostering for Animal Outreach!



Medical Emergencies vs. Non-Emergencies

Medical emergencies must be reported to an Animal Outreach staff member immediately. A medical emergency could be any of the following:

-
- A temperature over 103°F or less than 98°F.
 - Trouble breathing.
 - Seizures, severe lethargy, non-responsive.
 - Evidence of severe pain: restlessness, vocalizing, panting.
 - Major wounds.
 - Vomiting excessively (3 or 4 times) or excessive diarrhea.
 - Not urinating for 24 hours.
 - Not defecating for 2-3 days.
 - Not eating or drinking for 24 hours.
 - Excessive drinking and urinating.
 - Pale gums.
-

Once you notice any of these signs, you must contact the shelter. If it is during working hours, contact the foster team at (530) 642-2287 ex 3. **If unable to get through, call or text emergency after hours number, or just walk in with the foster.** After hours, call or text the foster team at the emergency after hours number (530) 324-5373.

Non-emergency is anything that can wait for the next business day. Signs of illness may include mild lethargy, coughing, nose or eye discharge, sneezing, loose stool, rice like worms in stool, lack of appetite, vomiting, fleas, and/or constipation. Please see the back of this handbook for examples of common parasites and illnesses kittens may face.

If you have any health-related concerns, please contact us as soon as you notice a problem: DO NOT wait until a crisis occurs. In the care and treatment of foster animals, there is no such thing as a stupid question!



If you suspect your kitten has become sick

When a foster caregiver calls, it is important to determine how sick a foster animal is by answering a series of simple questions. This information will help you determine the next steps.

- **Is the kitten eating, drinking, or playing or is the kitten lethargic** (not responsive)? If so, for how long? (This can be critical.) Sometimes 1/4 tsp of corn syrup can help failing kittens. If a foster caregiver does not have corn syrup, maple syrup or equal parts sugar and water can be used. A collapsed kitten does not have to swallow the syrup—it will absorb it through the gums.
- **If the kitten has not eaten in 8 hours or is lethargic, vomiting or has diarrhea and is dehydrated, the kitten will need to be tested for panleukopenia and given fluids.** If there is diarrhea, what is the consistency (water or pudding)? Please refer to the Cat Stool Chart at the end of this booklet. We will ask you to bring in stool sample for testing. If diarrhea for more than **12 hours**, bring kitten in to rehydrate with fluids. (If not dehydrated, can wait until morning).
- **Is the gum color nice and pink** or is it pale and white? Pull back the top lip and look at the gums. If you press on the gums, does it take longer than 2 seconds to return to pink from white?
- **Is there any weight loss?** (Can you see ribs or feel the backbone or hipbone?)
- **Is the kitten hydrated?** Pull the skin at the back of the neck and see if it quickly goes back in place or if the skin stays “tented.” If the skin does not snap back quickly, the animal needs fluids.
- **Is the kitten breathing normally** or breathing through its mouth? Can you visibly see mucus covering the nostrils? The nose can be cleaned with a soft, warm, wet cloth.
- **Are there other kittens and/or a mom with the kitten?** If so, are they exhibiting the same symptoms?
- **When was the last vaccine or deworming?**
- **Is there discharge** from the eyes or nose, and if so, what color?
- **If the eyes are glued with mucus**, they can be cleaned by gently wiping them with a soft, warm, damp cloth with slow, gentle wiping motions. Cotton balls should never be used to clean a kitten's eyes, as the fibers can scratch the cornea.
- **Has the kitten gone to the bathroom in 24 hours?** Call the next morning if it isn't better. **48-72 hours without a BM requires the kitten to come to the clinic.** You can try mixing in more water with formula or canned food. If the kitten hasn't had a BM in 48 hours call us to get the kitten in.
- **If the kitten is straining or vocalizing when trying to go to the bathroom, call us right away, as this is an emergency.** Check the urogenital area to see if another kitten has been suckling on the area. Kittens should be separated if they show swelling or irritation in that area and the foster coordinator should be informed.



What To Do If Your Foster Is Sick

Please let us know if your kittens or cats become lethargic, have discharge from the nose or eyes, diarrhea, vomiting, hair loss or redness of the skin.

There are some common illnesses and conditions that many kittens get. AO foster kittens are usually found by a Good Samaritan or a TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) trapper outside and not in the best condition. We try to match healthy kittens with fosters who only want healthy kittens, but we can't predict who is going to break with respiratory illnesses or gastrointestinal upset.

If your kitten or kittens start showing signs of illness and you are not comfortable with administering medication, please let us know and we can find a medical foster to take over for you, or keep them at AO in our treatment room for staff to monitor. If you decide to keep the kitten, we will give you a crash course in the illness you're dealing with, how to administer medication and fluids, and schedule a recheck about 7 days from the start of medication. If you're interested in becoming a medical foster and coming to our Advanced Fostering class, please let a foster coordinator know.

Some examples of medications you may have to give are oral liquid, pills, eye drops or ointment, or topical medication. Some medications and supplements can also be mixed with food or tucked into a pill pocket (though some cats are very savvy and suspicious and must be medicated manually).

Kittens that have shown signs of illness or have been treated with medication can't go to their surgery appointment without a recheck. If your kittens show signs of illness on day of surgery, we may ask you to pick your kittens up without having surgery and keep them until they finish treatment, or keep them in our treatment room here at AO.

Our goal is to never let our foster parents feel overwhelmed, overlooked, or underappreciated, so please bring us any and all questions and concerns that you have, even if you think it's not a big deal. We are happy to help you in any way that we can to make this a fun and rewarding experience.

If your fosters show any of the signs listed in the Emergency section of this handbook, please call us right away. **Emergency numbers can be found on page 4 of this handbook.**



Steps for Bottle Feeding

- 1. Prepare your bottle and nipple-** Boil, sanitize, and wash daily. Nipples that come with the bottles don't have a pre-cut hole, so you will need to cut it yourself. The hole should be big enough that if you hold it upside down, the formula can slowly drop out of it - but not so big that it flows out freely. Miracle Nipples are preferred because they come with a pre-cut hole that is perfect for feeding kittens.
- 2. Prepare your formula -** Kitten formula is usually purchased in powdered form and needs to be mixed with water before feeding. Once opened, the Breeder's Edge powder can be stored at room temperature, but KMR brand powder must be refrigerated. Breeders Edge formula is a 2:1 water to powder ratio and must be refrigerated after mixing. Do not store mixed formula for more than 24 hours.
- 3. Before feeding** the kitten, stimulate the kitten to pee and poop - Using a soft cloth, tissue, or toilet paper, gently rub and wipe the kitten's genitals and anus to stimulate them to pee and poop. This ensures the kitten is comfortable to nurse. After expressing, please weigh the kitten and record it on your feeding log.
- 4. Feed the kitten -** Lay the kitten in a natural, belly down position - never on their back. Hold the kitten's head steady with your non-dominant hand. Gently slide the nipple into the kitten's mouth and invert the bottle to start the flow of formula. The kitten should roll their tongue into a U-shape and begin to swallow. Be very careful not to squeeze formula into the kitten's mouth as this can cause aspiration. If you are feeding a very young kitten and having a difficult time controlling the flow, consider syringe feeding. If the kitten latches, that's great, but it's okay if it takes a while for them to get the hang of things! Bottle feeding is an art form that improves with time, so be patient and don't give up.
- 5. Complete the routine -** After feeding, always ensure you are cleaning the kitten's face using a baby wipe or warm, damp cloth. Once the kitten is clean, you must stimulate them to go potty one more time before placing them back in their warm bed. Kittens are often more likely to poop after eating, so you may spend more time stimulating them after a meal. Weigh the kitten once more because this will give you an idea of how much actually got in the belly.

KITTEN WEIGHT AND FEEDING CHART

AGE	WEIGHT	AMOUNT PER FEEDING	SCHEDULE
0-1 week	75-150 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	550-950 grams	weaning; offer ample wet food	Every 6 hours

This chart is a general guide; individuals will vary. Monitor weight as kittens grow. Healthy kittens gain 7g+ daily but may fluctuate at each feeding. Adjust feeding based on appetite, growth and individual needs.



Find kitten care information at [KittenLady.org](https://www.KittenLady.org).



You'll notice that as the kitten gets older, the amount increases and frequency decreases. Use your judgment to adjust as necessary; for instance, if a kitten is eating less at each feeding, you may want to increase the frequency. Meet the kittens where they are. If your kittens are healthy and stable, don't worry if they sleep a bit past the scheduled feeding time. As soon as they wake up, they'll let you know they are hungry. There's no need to wake a healthy kitten that is sleeping. If he or she is underweight and has been struggling to remain healthy, you may want to wake up to feed every two hours. In the back of this handbook is a sample feeding chart you can use to record weight, food intake, etc.



Weaning Kittens

Weaning is the fun, messy adventure of helping a kitten transition from nursing (or bottle feeding) to eating solid food on their own! Kittens often need extra support during this time to help ensure they're receiving the proper nutrients in the proper quantity, and to keep them on track for success and independence. Here's what you need to know about weaning:

- **Start at the right age** - Kitten's bodies are very sensitive to change, especially when done too early. Kittens age 0-5 weeks should ideally be nursing or on the bottle. At 4-6 weeks of age, the kitten's premolars start to emerge, indicating that they are ready to start eating solid foods! Not all kittens are ready to wean at this time so use your best judgment to decide when to start weaning.
- **Collect the right supplies** - Kittens should start weaning using wet kitten food. Wet kitten food provides the needed calories, fat, protein, and moisture for your foster kitten to thrive. You will also want to collect some shallow dishes or plates for your kitten to eat off of.
- **Don't rush** - Some kittens are ready to wean right away! Others will refuse the wet food until they are much older. There is no 'right' answer so meet the kitten where they are and be patient! Try offering little bits of wet food on a spoon or finger and scraping a little into their mouth to see if it entices them to eat.
- **Some kittens prefer to wean directly onto wet food** (not watered down or mixed with formula) and others prefer a 'gruel' of formula mixed with wet food. Weaning directly onto wet food is cleaner and creates better eating habits for the kittens but gruel is easier for them to eat at the beginning. The choice is up to you!
- **Continue offering a bottle to your weaning kitten** until they are confident eaters. This will ensure that they get all of the nutrients that they need.
- **You can introduce dry food and water at this time** as well, even though the kittens may just play with the dry food.
- **This is also a good time to introduce a litter box.** It should have low sides and use non-clumping litter or World's Best Litter provided by Animal Outreach.



Weaned Kittens

Weaned kittens (ages 5 weeks and older) are the easiest kittens to foster and are great for beginners! Here is a brief overview of the care you will be providing to this age group.

- **Food** - Weaned kittens should have 24/7 access to dry food and water. Wet food should be provided 2-4 times a day depending on the age and health of your kittens. Kittens age 4 weeks - 8 weeks should be eating at least one tablespoon of wet food per feeding. Generally feeding morning, late afternoon, and before bed is a good routine.
- **Housing** - Kittens in this age group are notorious for escaping their enclosures! Having a fully enclosed playpen or 'kitten proofed' room is best for these rowdy babies. This space should be clean and easy to disinfect.
- **Litterbox** - Make sure that the litter box you use is shallow enough for the kittens to get in and out of easily. Some fosters like to use disposable aluminum baking trays or shallow cardboard boxes from canned food as litter boxes for the small kittens. Litter should be scooped two or more times per day.
- **Litter** - Litter should be non-clumping for kittens. Non-clumping clay Litter, wood pellets, and paper pellets are great options. Animal Outreach will provided World's Best Cat Litter upon request. This is a clumping litter, but is safe for kittens. Litter should be scooped twice daily, morning and then late evening, and changed frequently, especially if kittens are having loose stool.
- **Socialization** - While playtime with siblings is very important to their development, time spent with people who show affection, talk with them, cuddle them, and play with them is the best way to prepare for adoption! A great way to prepare for adoption is by exposing kittens to all kinds of people, sounds, and environments. Having a kitten who is able to be held by anyone, doesn't care about household noises, and is used to other animals is so valuable!
- **Monitor** their health - Stay aware of your foster's weight, eating habits, and bathroom business so you can quickly catch any signs of illness! Contact us with any concerns. Check the urogenital area frequently to make sure siblings aren't suckling on the area.



Feral/Unsocialized Kittens

Supplies:

Bedding, cat dens
Litter box and litter
Kitten food.
Food and water dishes.

Socializing tools:

Treats (churu w/o fish. Baby food w/o onion)
Interactive toys
Scratching posts
Radio and common household noises
Gloves and towels.

Frequency:

At least four 15 minute sessions per day. Should include food incentives, gentle handling, and interactive play.

Age

3-9 weeks of age when they are most receptive to new experiences. Know that some kittens will not socialize and it is not a failure on the part of the foster.

Things to consider:

Don't rush. Reinforce all new experiences with food.

Prevent access to hard-to-reach areas such as under beds, behind dressers, etc. Bathrooms work very well if all cabinets are closed and the area behind the toilet is accessible.

Don't ever pull a kitten from the hiding place. Try to lure out with food and treats.

First steps:

Put a dish of food or high value treats a few feet from you. Sit on the floor with a ¾ profile, not making eye contact. Glance at the kitten, but don't stare. Use the "slow blink" technique. As the kitten gets more comfortable eating with you there, you can inch the dish closer to you over a few days until the kitten is eating right by your lap. You can also sit on the floor and gently roll kibble toward the kitten. Some people start by only having food present when the foster is present so that the kitten associates the foster with meal time. Depending on the age and health of the kitten will be the deciding factor. If your kitten is younger and needs to put on weight, then kibble should be out at all times and your socialization at meal times should include high value treats.



Feral/Unsocialized Kittens

Hand Feeding:

As your kitten gets more used to eating near you, start putting baby food, wet food, or churu treats on your finger and slowly offer it to the kitten. Do this over the course of a couple of days and slowly move your hand closer to your lap until kitty gets comfortable crawling on you for treats. If the kitten resists, you can briefly stop and try again. It's important to keep the experience as positive as possible, and at worse a neutral experience. After your kitty is used to your lap, you can introduce touch.

Introducing touch:

Touch the kitten on the shoulders first, gently petting. As they get more comfortable, you can start petting the back, the base of the tail, and gently putting your hand on the underbelly while they are eating treats. If your kitten runs off, try to lure them back with a high value treat and try again.

Picking up:

As your kitten gets more used to being touched, slowly begin lifting the kitten from the chest and placing them back down gently. This may be an inch or less depending on the kitten. Keep a dish of food right in front of the kittens nose. After kitten is comfortable with this, begin bringing the kitten close to your body when you are lifting. Eventually, try this technique on your knees, and then while standing.

Purrito technique:

Cover entire kitten with towel, including the head. Tuck the towel under the kitten. Should resemble a burrito. Place the kitten in your lap and slowly pull back the towel from the head, petting the head, shoulders, and back. If kitten is resistant, stop and resume petting when kitten is more comfortable.

Next steps:

Bring new people over multiple times so the kittens generalize their acceptance of your love to all kinds of different humans. During feeding time, make noises with crinkle toys and plastic bags, turn on and off a vacuum for a few seconds. Put your kittens in carriers and go on short car rides a few times per week. Introduce kitten-friendly resident pets as long as everyone is healthy and vaccinated. Reward all new experiences with treats and food.



Mom and Kittens

Fostering a mom and her litter of kittens is a great way to experience having tiny babies around, without all the work! Many foster parents consider mom and litters to be one of the easiest foster situations, as mom will do most of the work. Here are a few tips for you to keep in mind.

- **Monitor the health** - It is important to monitor both the health of the kittens, and of mom. Weighing each kitten daily and keeping detailed records will assist in your ability to know when something goes wrong. If you have any concerns, reach out right away.
- **Housing** - It is wise to keep mom and babies in a single, small room like an extra bedroom. Mom cats like to move their kittens so keeping them in a small room will minimize the hiding places so you can keep an eye on them. Providing two appealing boxes or beds for mom gives her an alternate place to move the babies.
- **Feeding mom** - Mama cats need extra nutrition to feed her babies. She should be eating kitten dry and wet food the entire time she is nursing. Generally she will be eating 2-3 times the normal amount for a cat her size. It is normal for mom to lose some weight while nursing, but if she loses more than one pound over a couple of weeks or becomes dehydrated, please contact us right away. You can check her hydration and her spine for muscle loss which would indicate too-rapid weight loss.
- **How long do kittens need to be with mom?** - Kittens only NEED to stay with mom until they are fully weaned, but there are many important developmental reasons to keep them with mom for 6 - 8 weeks. If the kitten's mom is feral, it is usually best to separate as soon as they wean so that the kittens don't develop her anti-social tendencies. That decision is ultimately up to you as the foster parent to decide when is best to separate mom and babies.
- **Socializing the kittens** - Spending time with, talking to, and playing with the kittens is important for them. It makes them friendlier and well adjusted, preparing them for adoption.



Bathing your kitten



Sometimes kittens need a little bath to clean urine or feces and to remove fleas. The capstar we give should kill fleas for 24 hours, but if the kitten has a particularly bad infestation, you may want to give it a quick soak.

Remember that young kittens aren't the greatest at thermoregulation, so make sure you use lukewarm water (a little more than room temperature) to bathe your kittens.

Supplies you will need:

- A sink, bathtub, or plastic container to hold water.
- Multiple towels for drying
- Dawn dishwashing soap or non-toxic kitten shampoo
- Blow dryer with a low or cool setting.
- Flea comb


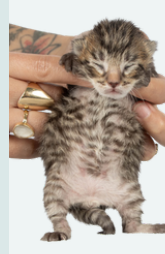





Step one: Fill a sink, bathtub, or plastic container with lukewarm water. Check temperature of the water with the sensitive area of your wrist or arm (fingers can be misleading and kitties are sensitive to extreme temperatures). Lay a towel down next to the sink or tub to be ready for drying.

Step two: Apply a ring of shampoo or soap around the kitten's neck. This is to prevent fleas from traveling up the face. Scruff your kitten gently and dip kitten into the warm water. Pull them out and begin rubbing in the soap from the neck down. Apply more if necessary. Use a flea comb to catch any fleas in the head and face area. **Do not dip kitten's head in the water. You can use a damp towel to wash the head but don't apply soap to the head, and avoid the eyes, nose, and mouth.**

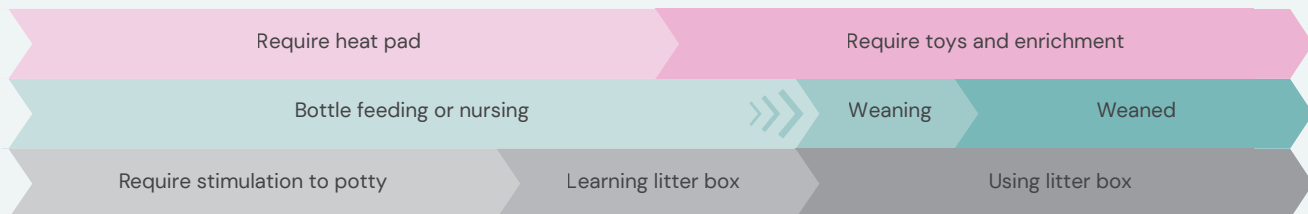
Step three: Rinse in warm water and immediately towel dry.

Step four: On the low setting, hold the blow dryer at least one foot away from the kitten. Always let the dryer blow unto your hand that is holding the kitten. That way you know if it is getting too warm. While drying off the kitten rub its fur with a towel. When dry, place the kitten in a warm environment with a heating disc or heating pad and blankets.

KITTEN DEVELOPMENT

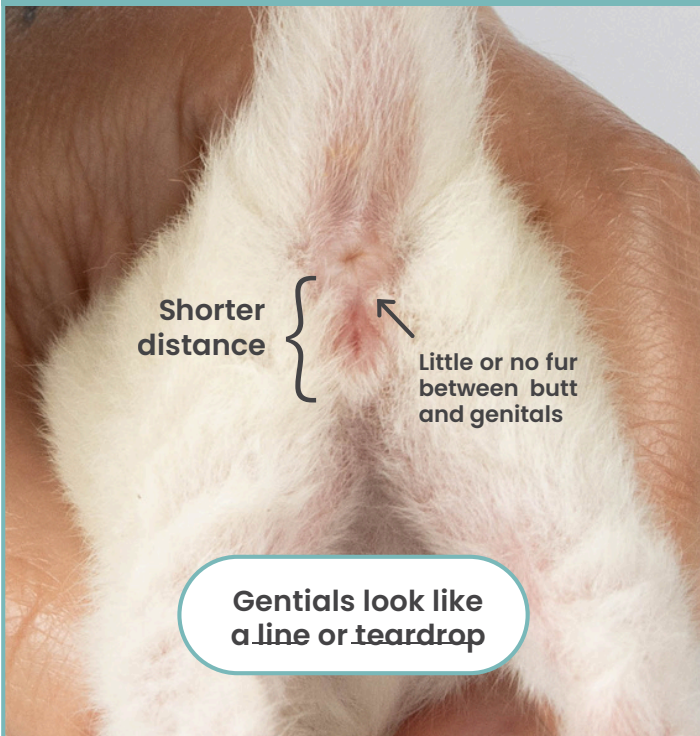
<p>NEWBORN</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes closed ear canalsshut • Umbilical cord until ~5 days <p>WEIGHT: 75-150g</p> <p>BOTTLE FEED: 2-6ml every 2 hours</p>	<p>1 WEEK</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes closed; open at 8-12 days • No umbilical cord <p>WEIGHT: 150-250g</p> <p>BOTTLE FEED: 6-10ml every 2-3 hours</p>	<p>2 WEEKS</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eyes open; pupils large, irises blue • No teeth, ears small and rounded <p>WEIGHT: 250-350g</p> <p>BOTTLE FEED: 10-14ml every 3 hours</p>
<p>3 WEEKS</p>	  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incisors emerging, ears upright • Discovering litterbox, toddling slowly <p>WEIGHT: 350-450g</p> <p>BOTTLE FEED: 14-18ml every 4 hours</p>	<p>4 WEEKS</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canines emerging, ears pointy and large • Vision improving, walking confidently <p>WEIGHT: 450-550g</p> <p>BOTTLE FEED: 18-22ml every 5 hours</p>	<p>5 WEEKS</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premolars emerging, ears proportional • Weaning gradually onto wet kitten food <p>WEIGHT: 550-650g</p> <p>WEANING: Offer wet food and bottle every 6 hours</p>
<p>6 WEEKS</p>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All deciduous teeth have emerged • Transitioning to adult eye color <p>WEIGHT: 650-750g</p> <p>OFFER WET FOOD: 4 times a day</p>	<p>7 WEEKS</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As coordinated and playful as an adult • Adult eye color present <p>WEIGHT: 750-900g</p> <p>OFFER WET FOOD: 3 times a day</p>	<p>8 WEEKS</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If healthy, can be spayed/neutered and adopted into a loving home! <p>WEIGHT: 900g+</p> <p>OFFER WET FOOD: 3 times a day</p>

HUSBANDRY TIMELINE

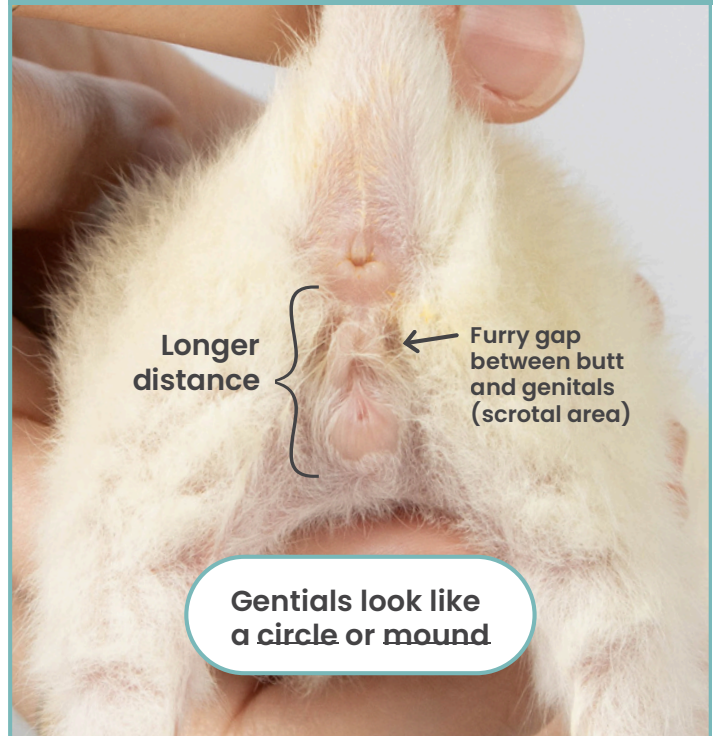


HOW TO TELL A KITTEN'S SEX

FE MALE



MALE



For more information and to watch a video about how to tell the sex of a kitten visit KittenLady.org/sex.





Keeping Cats Safe From Poisons

To Prevent Plant Eating:

- Remove plants from areas the cat has access to.
- Provide your cat with a kitty herb garden to chew on—there are a number available in pet stores. Try oat grass, catnip, or alfalfa. Wheat grass is also safe for cats.
- Praise your kitty or give her treats when she chews on her kitty grass.
- Teach your cat not to chew on household plants by using an aversive spray. We recommend Bitter Apple, as it is safe for plants and animals (although it does not taste good to animals). Spray the product on all of the plant leaves. This way, if the cat tries to chew on the plant, it will have an unpleasant taste that it will associate with plant-eating. Hot chili sauce can be brushed on plant leaves for a similar effect.

Other Household Hazards

- Secure all cupboards, medicine chests, and closets to keep them off limits to kitties. Use child-proof latches when possible.
- Use natural, non-toxic cleaners when possible. Since cats are fastidious groomers, anything that makes contact with their skin may be ingested while they clean themselves.
- Cationic and anionic detergents (such as ammonia-based cleaners) and phenol disinfectants (such as PineSol) are especially dangerous to cats.
- Use safety or snap traps for pests instead of insecticides and rodenticides. Remember that your cat may ingest a poisoned mouse or bug and can then be poisoned himself.
- Never give your pet any medications that have not been prescribed by your veterinarian.
- Keep your cat indoors to reduce exposure to herbicides, anti-freeze, gasoline and other poisonous substances that they may ingest, either intentionally or by grooming themselves.
- Remember that some herbs and essential oils are poisonous to animals if ingested or applied topically. Always consult with your vet.
- Do not feed table scraps to your cat. Many human foods, such as chocolate and onions can be fatal to cats. Other foods can cause stomach distress. Plants and poisons produce a variety of symptoms, but the following are cause for concern: Listlessness, muscle weakness, vomiting (especially if the vomit contains leaves or vegetable matter), abdominal pain, difficulty breathing, tremors, diarrhea, or convulsion.

Steps to Follow if You Suspect Your Foster Pet Has Been Poisoned:

1. Quickly determine the amount and type of plant or poison the animal has eaten.
2. Call the emergency foster contact numbers.
3. Collect a sample of whatever poison may have been ingested and take note of any relevant symptoms.

This list has been gathered from a variety of sources, but is far from complete. If your foster pet shows symptoms of poisoning, treat it as an emergency and get veterinary attention immediately.



Common Household Toxic Plants

Toxic Houseplants for Pets

Severe



Yew
Muscle tremors
Difficulty breathing
Seizures in dogs
Sudden death from acute cardiac failure



Oleander
Drooling
Abdominal pain
Diarrhea
Depression



Lily of the Valley
Vomiting
Irregular heart beat
Low blood pressure
Disorientation
Coma, seizures



Desert Rose
Vomiting
Diarrhea
Lack of appetite
Depression
Irregular heartbeat



Sago Palm
Vomiting
Jaundice
Increased thirst
Bloody diarrhea
Bruising
Liver failure
1-2 seeds can be fatal



Asiatic Lily
Kidney failure
More severe in cats than dogs

Day Lily
Kidney failure
In cats only

Moderate



Mexican Bird of Paradise
Caesalpinia gilliesii
Oral irritation
Excessive drooling
Vomiting or diarrhea
Difficulty swallowing



Mistletoe
Vomiting or diarrhea
Difficulty breathing
Low heart rate
Low blood pressure



**Hyacinth •
Amaryllis •**
Intense vomiting
Diarrhea
Depression
Tremors



**Daffodil •
Amaryllis •**
Vomiting or diarrhea
Depression
Abdominal pain
Hypersalivation
Tremors



Cannabis
Vomiting
Incoordination
Sleepiness or excitation
Hypersalivation
Tremors or shaking
Urinary incontinence
Seizures, coma

** Bulbs are most toxic*

Mild to Moderate



Alocasia
Arrowhead Vine
Begonia •
Caladium
Calla Lily
Chinese Evergreen
Dieffenbachia
Flamingo Flower
Oxalis •
Peace lily
Philodendron
Pothos
Schefflera
Swiss Cheese Plant
ZZ Plant



Oral irritation
Vomiting
Hypersalivation
Difficulty swallowing
**can cause liver failure if consumed over a long period*



Chamomile
Contact dermatitis
Vomiting or diarrhea
Anorexia



Lemon Tree
Lime Tree
Vomiting or diarrhea
Depression
Dermatitis
Fruit is edible - skins and plant material can cause symptoms



Aloe Vera
Chrysanthemum
Corn Plant
Cyclamen •
English Ivy
Gardenia
Indian Rubber Plant
Jade Plant
Japanese Yew
Lavender
Mother of Thousands
Pencil Cactus
Poinsettia
Snake Plant
'String of' plants ••
Tulip •



Vomiting or diarrhea
Hypersalivation
Incoordination
** Bulbs are most toxic
** Pearls, Dolphins, etc.*



Asparagus Fern
Tradescantia
Skin irritation



Bird of Paradise
Strelitzia spp.
Mild nausea
Vomiting
Drowsiness
*Fruit & seeds are most toxic
Less poisonous than
Caesalpinia gilliesii*



The information provided here does not account for individual circumstances. Severity depends on factors such as amount consumed, allergic reactions, and underlying health issues. It is always best practice to contact your vet or poison control if you suspect that your pet has consumed a plant in any amount.





Common Household Toxins

Medications:

- Antidepressants
- All NSAIDS (e.g., ibuprofen)
- Acetaminophen
- Vitamins
- All cancer medication
- Dog flea medication

Household

Cleaners/Products:







- Bleach
- Laundry detergent
- Drain cleaner
- Aromatherapy oils such as eucalyptus
- De-icing salts
- Herbicides
- Rodenticides

Foods and Hazards:

- Onions
- Garlic
- Chives
- Chocolate
- Raisins and grapes
- Macadamia nuts
- Raw yeast dough
- Raw or undercooked meat
- Xylitol (found in sugarless gums, toothpaste, mouthwash).
- Chicken bones
- Tinsel
- Toys with small parts

If you are unsure if your foster animal has been exposed to a toxin, some common symptoms include: trouble breathing, confusion, coughing, depression, diarrhea, dilated pupils, excessive drinking and urinating, vomiting, seizures, tremors/shivering, weakness and lethargy.

Cat Stool Chart

What You See	Type of Stool	What it Means	What To Do
	Unable to pass stool at all, straining in the litter box.	Severe constipation.	If your cat is unable to pass stool for 48-72 hours, contact a veterinarian.
	Hard, pebble-like stool.	Constipation.	Consider dietary adjustments.
	Smooth or slightly lumpy, sausage-shaped.	Healthy stool.	No action necessary.
	Formed, but mushy.	Soft feces, generally caused by minor irritation.	Generally not a cause for concern, as long as it resolves within a few days and is not accompanied by other signs of illness.
	Watery, soupy stool.	Diarrhea.	See a vet if diarrhea continues for more than a day, is accompanied by signs of illness, or if your cat is a young kitten.
	Mucous.	Clear (sometimes white or slightly yellow), slimy mucus indicates bowel irritation and points to parasites or another form of infection.	See a veterinarian.



Red blood.

Red blood in stool means that there is irritation near the rectum or anus.

See a vet ASAP or immediately if there is a lot of blood.



Black, tarry.

Usually means that there is bleeding in the upper GI tract.

See a vet immediately.



Orange.

May point to liver or gallbladder problems.

See a veterinarian.



Yellow.

Especially if it has a foul smell, this may indicate coccidia. May be caused by a bacterial overgrowth or imbalance.

See a veterinarian.



Green or greenish.

Bacterial infection.

If your cat is unable to pass stool for 48-72 hours, contact a veterinarian

Common Types of Feline Intestinal Worms

(Not to Scale)



Photo Credit: vet.cornell.edu

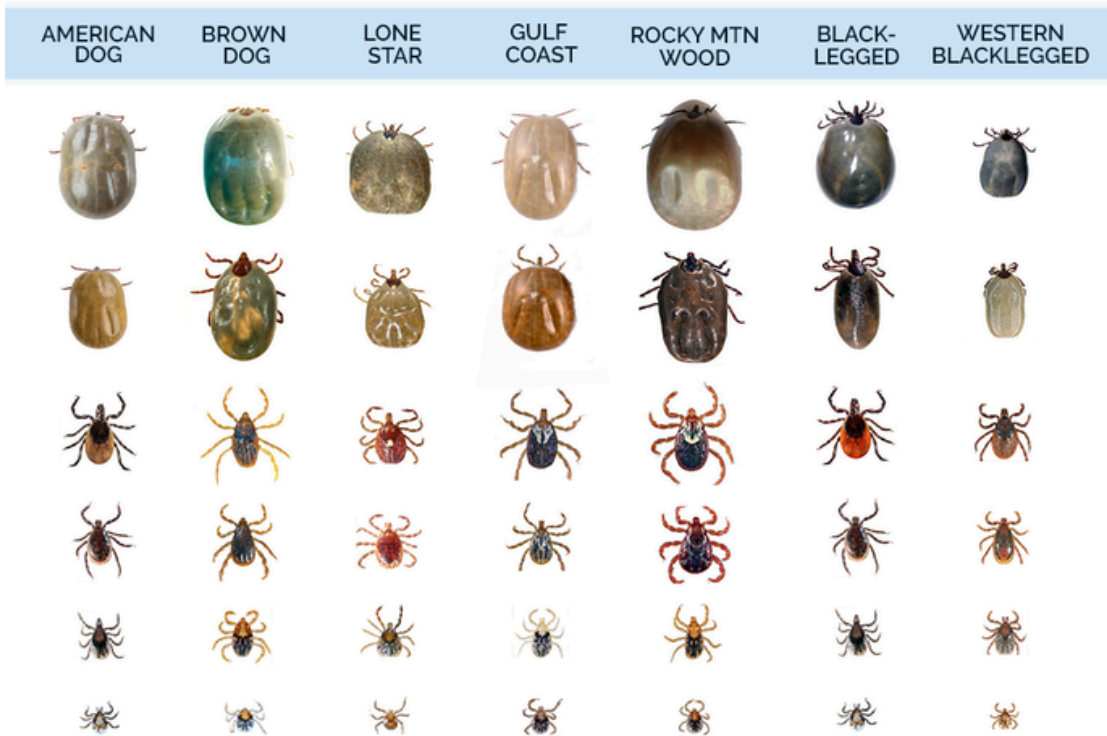


Photo credit: River Landings Vet Clinic



Ringworm lesions on kitten's face
Photo credit: Warren Photography



Ctenocephalides felis
Photo credit: University of Florida



Checking hydration
Credit: WikiHow



Feline calicivirus tongue ulcers



Join our Facebook group!

We have a private facebook group just for fosters! Staff and other fosters update regularly and share stories and milestones with each other! It's a fun way to connect with each other and sometimes find a potential adopter!

Please scan the QR code below to join or email fosters@animaloutreach.net and request an html link to the group!



Please follow all Facebook terms of service when posting as well as any group rules and admin direction.

Please do not use the group to sell anything.

All posts are approved by a group admin and you will receive a notification when someone has approved your post. If you are asking a question that needs an immediate answer, please reach out to the foster coordinator.

Please do not give medical advice. Animal Outreach staff are happy to answer any of your questions.

Please be respectful. Bullying and harassment will not be tolerated and may compromise your ability to foster with Animal Outreach in the future. If you have frustrations or upsets, please talk to our foster coordinator.

Animals First Foster Portal

When you begin fostering a kitten, you will get an email to use our Animals First Foster Portal. On the Animals First website, you can choose "AF Login" at the top of the screen. You can choose "sign up" to begin creating your profile. Once you are in, your foster cats should be listed in the home page. You can add your weight history, notes, and upload videos and photos of your foster.

I Found a Kitten Outside! Should I Bring Her Into My **CASA**?

Before picking up a kitten, assess the scenario using the CASA method. Consider the following 4 factors: Condition, Age, Situation, and Abilities.

CONDITION

If a kitten is in good condition, she has likely been cared for by her mother recently.



GOOD CONDITION

- Clean and alert
- Chunky and well-fed
- Not in distress

Mom is likely right around the corner! Try your best to reunite if unweaned.



BAD CONDITION

- Dirty or covered in waste
- Visibly underweight
- In distress or medical crisis

These kittens may truly be orphaned, and need swift intervention!

AGE

A kitten's age will help you determine the right course of action.



0-5 WEEKS

- Uncoordinated
- Closed or baby blue eyes
- Unweaned; dependent on nursing

These kittens should be kept with mom, either by trapping the family for foster care or by leaving with mom until weaned.



5-12 WEEKS

- Playful and coordinated
- Able to walk and run
- Eating food independently

These kittens are within the socialization window, and are an ideal age to take in and socialize for adoption.



12+ WEEKS

- Typically 3+ pounds
- No longer nursing
- Proportionate or lanky body

If feral, these kittens will be more difficult to socialize, and they may have the best outcome if sterilized and returned to the colony.

SITUATION

Every situation will be different, and it's up to you to use your best judgment about when and how to intervene.



SAFE SITUATION

- Mother is present
- Caregiver is present
- Family has food and shelter



UNSAFE SITUATION

- No one is caring for the kitten
- Kitten is exposed to extreme weather or hazards

ABILITY

Your abilities and access to community resources will factor into how you respond. Give the kitten the most positive outcome possible, while working within your means and capacity.

ASK YOURSELF

- Are you or someone you know able to provide foster care?
- Does your local shelter have a lifesaving program that can help?
 - Can you access sterilization services for the family?



Remember that no two scenarios are alike, and there are numerous lifesaving pathways depending on the kitten's condition, age, situation, and the abilities and resources at your disposal.

AND DON'T FORGET: Wherever there are kittens, *there are cats!*

Always work to sterilize the local community cats in order to prevent future births.