



Foster Care Training

Lesson 2

2024 - 2025



Weaning Kittens

Part 1/5

When and How to Start

- At about 4.5 to 5 weeks kittens get their molars and are ready to move from the bottle to eating independently. Weaning is a process that each kitten manages at her own pace. Here's how to begin the journey:
 - Mix the formula with about a tablespoon of soft kitten food until smooth. You want the food to pass through the nipple.
 - Continue to weigh the kitten regularly.

Little Steps Forward

- For this stage you will be using food bowls that will work well with kittens. You will need:
 - A heavy ceramic or stainless-steel bowl with shallow enough sides for the kittens to reach the food.
- Sometimes, if the kitten is a small, a pet food plastic lid will work when you are introducing kibble.
- Make sure you have a sturdy ceramic bowl for the water as well.
- After a day or two if the kittens take well to the bottle slurry, make a hummus-like slurry with the kitten formula and kitten wet food and place in a bowl.



Weaning Kittens

Part 1/5

The Finish Line

It's funny how once the kittens understand what the point of the dish is, they quickly join the weaned club of kittens and can feed themselves. Be sure that you have a dish of kibble and water always available to the kittens even if they get wet food.

- Kittens at this stage are getting more and more active so be sure to continue to weigh them daily so you know they are getting the nutrition they need.
- Also be aware that some kittens just aren't interested in wet cat food, so it's a good idea as you begin the weaning process to provide kibble and water.

Some Things to Watch For:

- Kitten's stomachs are sensitive, and any food change can upset their GI tract. Sometimes the wet food is just too rich for their little tummies, and you notice they develop diarrhea.
- One way to adjust for this is to combine the wet food with ground-up kibble.
- If that doesn't seem to resolve the diarrhea, check with the Kitten Central vet techs.
- Be sure your kittens have access to plenty of water because diarrhea can dehydrate kittens quickly.



Litter Training

Part 2/5

When To Begin

Litter training can begin when kittens are around 3 weeks old. They should be mobile and you may notice they are eliminating in their bedding.

What You Need

- You want to use a litter box that is safe, shallow and easy for the kitten to access.
- Use non-clumping litter. Some kittens at this age explore their litter box by trying to eat the litter. The clumping litter can make them very sick if ingested.

Encouragement

- Always use positive reinforcement. Praise the kitten for using the litter box.

Learning Success

- Keep the kittens in their enclosure until they are trained. If you have issues, you might need to try a different litter or troubleshoot what is making them choose somewhere else to go.

Cleanliness

- Keep the litter box clean! If you have multiple kittens you will need to have more than 1 litterbox.



Medical Conditions

Part 3/5



The following are some of the medical conditions you may encounter with your foster kittens:

- URI (Upper Respiratory Infection)
- UTI (Urinary Tract Infection)
- Ringworm
- Calici virus
- Ear mites
- Panleukopenia
- Fleas
- Coccidia/Giardia
- Fading Kittens

Each kitten gets a checkup at its service appointment. However, if you have any concerns between appointments, our veterinary techs are available to answer questions. If outside help is needed, the techs will contact KC vets. Therefore, we ask you do not contact outside vets.

All About Poop

Part 4/5

Rainbow of Poop

- Kittens have sensitive tummies which can react when there are changes to the food they eat, a change in foster homes, or some other unknown cause.
- The chart helps determine the differences between a kitten who might be constipated, one who has more normal fecal samples, and a kitten who suffers from diarrhea.
- If you have concerns about your kittens' elimination, taking a picture to show the vet techs is very helpful.

Fecal Scoring System



Score 1 – Very hard and dry; requires much effort to expel from body; no residue left on ground when picked up. Often expelled as individual pellets.



Score 2 – Firm, but not hard; should be pliable; segmented appearance; little or no residue left on ground when picked up.



Score 3 – Log-like; little or no segmentation visible; moist surface; leaves residue, but holds form when picked up.



Score 4 – Very moist (soggy); distinct log shape visible; leaves residue and loses form when picked up.



Score 5 – Very moist but has distinct shape; present in piles rather than as distinct logs; leaves residue and loses form when picked up.



Score 6 – Has texture, but no defined shape; occurs as piles or as spots; leaves residue when picked up.



Score 7 – Watery, no texture, flat; occurs as puddles.



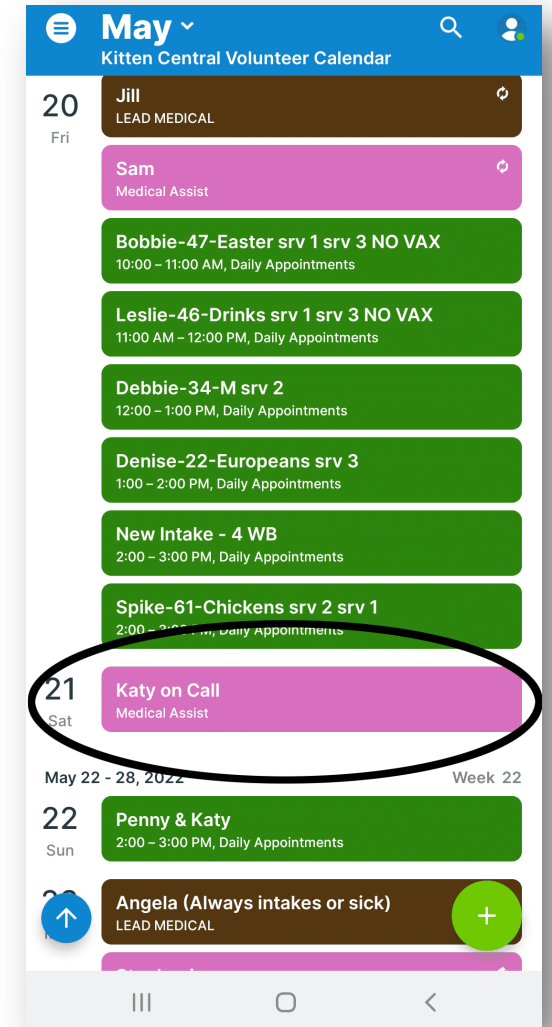
Medical Concerns

Part 5/5

Kitten issues can arise without concern for the time of day or day of the week. Here's how to find the right support person to contact and what information you should have on hand for the vet tech.

TeamUp calendar will list who is working at Kitten Central during the week and who is on-call on the weekend. During the week you have a few options:

- Text Katy so she can get an overview of what you might need. If your kitten needs to be seen, she can arrange an appointment for you.
- You can also text the vet techs on duty, send pictures of the symptoms and get their feedback.
- On weekends, TeamUp Calendar will show who is on call. You can text that vet tech and they will get in touch with you. Either on a weekday or weekend, be sure you have the TeamUp Calendar app installed on your phone as it gives you the information you need for help.
- If you have concerns at night or the wee hours of the morning, Tina, the ICU nurse is available to call



Medical Concerns

Part 5/5

Litter Name	→ Chocolates	DOB	2/28/22
Dove F DSH White + Tabby			
Nestle M DSH Black + White			
Hershey M DSH Grey + White			
Sponsor	→ Client	HT	
Litter Number	↓ Medical fostering provided		
22-012	by: KITTEN CENTRAL (916) 645-2217		

How You Can Help

You can help the tech get as clear a picture of your kitten's circumstances if you have some information at hand when you call.

First, the tech will need to know the litter's name, the sponsor of the litter, and the litter number. You can find this information on the card that is attached to the cage which KC refers to as "the cage card".

Here is a list of some additional information that the tech may ask about:

- Medical history (is this an ongoing issue?)
- Is there weight loss or gain?
- What is the color/consistency of the stool?
- Activity level? Is the kitten still playing as usual, is she lethargic?
- Do any of the litter mates have similar symptoms?
- What type of food is the kitten eating? Dry or wet? How often?
- Is the kitten drinking fluids?

Non-Emergency Medical Questions

Part 5/5



Kitten Central's Foster/ Volunteer Roster

🔒 Private group · 123 members

- Kitten Central has a private Facebook group called the Foster Roster. This group consists of experienced fosters, new fosters, vet techs, and other members of the Kitten Central community. The Foster Roster is a great resource for questions about weaning, litter training, funny stories about kittens in the home, saying goodbye, and lots and lots of kitten pictures.
- The Foster Roster also contains posts with pertinent announcements or information about events taking place within the KC community.
- To join the Foster Roster, you need a Facebook account, text Katy to let her know you want to be included in the group. She takes it from there.

Assessment

You have completed Lesson 2 Training.

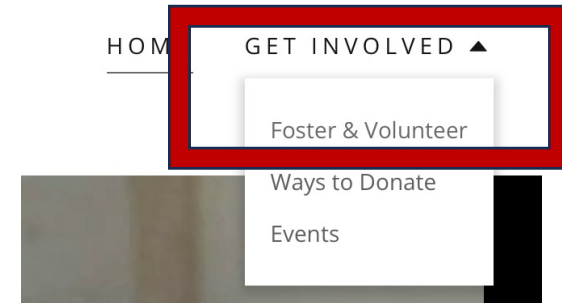
Please return to www.kittencentral.org -> Get Involved -> Foster & Volunteer -> Become a Foster

On the Foster training page click on the **Lesson 2 Assessment**. This will open a PDF assessment. You may fill it in electronically or print, fill out, scan it and email it back to us.

Navigate to this page to take the remaining lesson and assessment.

Once all 3 assessments are complete, attach them in ONE email to katy@kittencentral.org.

Please do not send 3 separate emails. This makes it harder to keep track of completion.



Become a Foster

Foster parents give kittens a safe environment and monitor their health. They feed the kittens regularly and even help them go to the bathroom. Foster parents make sure their kittens stay clean and warm. Most importantly, they play with and love their kittens to set them up to one day be adopted.

Required Foster Training

All prospective fosters must go through our training course and submit their quiz before being an approved foster.

[CLICK TO TAKE OUR FOSTER TRAINING COURSE AND ASSESSMENTS](#)