
Humane Society Of El Paso

FOSTER CARE PROGRAM

Foster Family Volunteer Manual

Cats & Kittens



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can I let the kitten play with my resident pets?

NO! At least not immediately. You are required to separate your foster kittens for a minimum quarantine period of 7 days. Your pets could introduce disease to the fosters and the fosters could also introduce disease to your pet. The HSEP will not knowingly send a sick animal into a foster home however some diseases may not break for up to a week. The HSEP cannot be held responsible for the health of your resident pets

What if I have to leave town and the kittens aren't ready?

We understand that things come up in life. If this happens, please contact the Foster Manager to arrange for the kittens care while you are gone. It is best to provide as much advance notice as possible! You cannot hire someone to baby-sit. You alone are responsible for the care of the kittens and we cannot work with someone who has not undergone our approval process.

Can I Foster if I have a full-time job?

It depends on the flexibility of your job and your schedule. Most of our foster parents work full time but are able to spend time with their fosters before they leave for work and after they come home. They are also able to accommodate their schedule if a kitten suddenly becomes ill and needs to be seen by our medical staff.

How much time do I need to spend with the Kittens?

As much time as you possibly can! The more time you spend with your fosters the more you will help their socialization! You'll also be able to spot any symptoms that are out of the ordinary – with young kittens this is critical!

What if I get overwhelmed and can't continue to care for the kittens?

- If you feel that you are unable to give adequate care to the kittens, contact the Foster Manager right away so other foster arrangements can be made. We appreciate your effort; fostering is not right for everyone all the time!

Will I need to administer medication?

- At some time, yes. Our veterinary staff will show you how to give medication to a kitten. It is not difficult and it is very important that you are able to give the medication if needed.

When a kitten is 8 weeks is it automatically ready to come back?

- Foster kittens are considered ready to be fixed when they are 8 weeks and the MUST BE AT LEAST 2 pounds. The kittens must also not be on any kind of medication. If you have a litter with multiple kittens, it is generally better to wait until the smallest is 2 lbs. and to bring them in together.

Will any of my foster kittens die?

- Unfortunately, not all foster kittens are able to survive even with all the care they receive in a foster home. If any of your kittens pass away, please call the Foster Manager immediately and you will receive further instruction. Kittens are very fragile and nature did not intend for them to all survive. It is a small percentage of kittens who don't make it compared to the number of kittens who do get a second chance!

HUMANE SOCIETY OF EL PASO

FOSTER PARENT CONTRACT (HSEP COPY)

I understand that the Humane Society of El Paso cannot guarantee the health or disposition of any foster animal. I understand that the shelter does not have past records for these animals and there are some risks associated with taking in foster animals. I understand the importance of my own animals being fully vaccinated. Family pets will be current on all shots and foster pets will be kept isolated from family pets for a minimum of 7 days for the protection of all animals. I agree to be fully responsible for the safety and health of my foster animal(s). I will provide a safe, loving, and humane environment at all times. I will adhere to all state and local animal laws. I will promptly notify the Humane Society of El Paso of any signs of illness, behavior issues or concerns, an inability to foster, if the pets become lost or if the pet bites someone.

I understand that foster animals cannot be transferred to the custody of another person, shelter, or rescue without prior notification and consent from the Humane Society of El Paso. If for any reason, I cannot continue to care for a foster animal I must notify the Foster Department and allow time for another foster home to be found.

I understand that all animals in the Humane Society of El Paso's foster program are the property of the Humane Society of El Paso and must be returned within 24 hours of request. I agree that I am fostering this animal for the Humane Society of El Paso and do not have any right to ownership over my foster animal. I agree to provide an authorized representative of the Humane Society of El Paso access to my home and property to check on the well-being of my foster animal at any time while I am in possession of my foster pet. I also agree to random home visits to assure that I am maintaining a safe a reliable home environment for the animals the Humane Society is entrusting me to care for.

I agree that I will not foster animals for another rescue group while I am fostering animals for the Humane Society of El Paso.

I agree that accidental animal bites or other injuries to humans and other animals do occur and agree to hold harmless and indemnify and protect the Humane Society of El Paso from any claim or suit filed by someone as a result of such an incident.

In addition, Humane Society of El Paso will not be responsible if an animal should damage or destroy property belonging to Foster Parent or if the animal should transfer any disease, internal or external parasites to other animals and/or people in the Foster Parent's household.

I understand that if I am approved for fostering, this declaration represents a legal contract between me as the foster caregiver and the Humane Society of El Paso. I understand that if I am approved to foster an animal, I must abide by this agreement and that this agreement applies to any and all animals I foster for the Humane Society of El Paso.

By signing below, I acknowledge that the information I provided on this application is correct to the best of my knowledge. If at any time the information I have provided changes, I will provide the updated information to the Humane Society of El Paso Foster Care Program.

Signature of foster parent

Date

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Date

PROVIDING A SAFE HOME ENVIRONMENT

THE SAFE ROOM

Choose a space that is free of things that can hurt a kitten. You must be able to control the temperature of the room – be sure there are no drafts. The kittens should be isolated from your own pets. The room your foster kittens are living in should be able to withstand litter box accidents, vomit, and spilled medicine. A bathroom is often a good choice for fostering (just don't forget to close the toilet lid and hide the toilet paper!)

KITTEN - PROOFING

Remember that kittens are babies and consequently they will try to get into everything! Block any electrical outlets and put away anything that a kitten could swallow or get tangled in. Hide any breakable items. Block any small holes where the kitten might hide and become inaccessible to you. It helps to lie down on the floor so that you can see the room from a kitten's point of view and identify potential hazards. Any windows in the room should be kept closed or securely screened.

INSIDE THE KITTEN ROOM

The kitten room should contain everything the kittens will need to eat, drink, eliminate, sleep and play!

- Have at least one bowl for water, one for wet food and one for dry food. It is best to provide more bowls if you have several kittens so no one has to compete for access to food.
- Put the litter boxes as far away as possible from food, drink and bedding.
- Be sure to provide enough boxes so that each kitten has a clean place to eliminate.
- Old towels tend to work well as bedding. A secure sleeping area, such as a cat carrier with the door removed or a box on its side will help the kittens feel safe- this is especially important for shy kittens!
- Provide safe, disposable or easily sanitized toys to entertain the kittens when you are not with them such as ping pong balls and wine corks.
- Finally, some type of scratching post or cardboard scratch pad will be necessary.



PICK UP & RETURN PROCEDURES

PICKING UP KITTENS

Picking up and returning foster kittens is an easy process but it requires a little scheduling

- First, you will fill out a foster application where you will have indicated the types of kittens you are willing to foster.
- You will then be placed in our “Active Fosters” file.
- As soon as kittens come in, the Foster Manager will send a message to foster parents via social media, email or text message. You may receive a phone call if needed.
- When you respond, foster staff will help you schedule a convenient time to pick up your new foster kittens! Pickup must occur during the HSEP’s business hours.

RETURNING KITTENS

- Returning kittens from foster is a very similar process!
- When your foster kittens are getting close to the 8 week mark, foster staff will contact you to see if the kittens are close to two pounds. If they are under weight, they will need to stay in foster care until the goal weight of 2 lbs. is reached.
- The kittens will come in on a scheduled surgery day when they are at least 8 wks. and 2 lbs. (foster staff will contact you with the day)
- Surgery patients will need to come in between 9 and 9:30AM on the day of the Surgery
- It is very important that surgery patients have a late meal the night before! They are allowed to have water up until they are brought into the shelter on surgery day.
- When the kittens are done with surgery they will stay at the shelter and they will be available for adoption the next day. If there’s no space for them to stay after surgery, you will be notified to arrange pick up time and to plan for having them a few days more.



“Meow House” at Humane Society of El Paso

Foster Tip!

Bring in bedding your foster animals use at home, we will use it in their clinic kennel pre-op and post-op. This can help them feel comfortable in a strange place!

DAILY CARE

HEALTH MONITORING

It is important to monitor a kitten's health and weight daily. It is important to keep an eye on each kitten's weight, eating habits and overall health. If you need to, you can borrow a scale from the foster department to monitor weight. You can also opt to bring the kitten in and we can weigh them at the shelter (just please give us advance notice if you'd like to stop by!)

FEEDING

Please feed your foster kittens only what is provided to you by the Foster Program. These kittens will generally only be given one brand of food in the shelter and changing could cause an upset to their systems. Also, the kittens have brand new digestive systems that can be irritated by introducing too many food choices. Some human foods can be toxic to cats, so it is best not to experiment.

If your kitten refuses to eat the food you were given, please contact the foster staff. They will help you determine if this is a medical problem or a preference issue and will advise you of the next step to take.



DAILY ROUTINE – BREAK DOWN



FEEDING

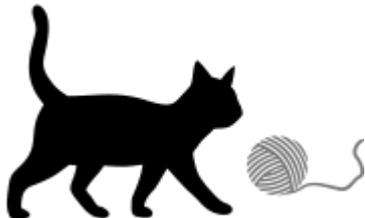
- Kittens should be fed at least 4 times a day (or more, depending on age)
- Pick up dirty, wet food dishes
- Monitor appetites

CLEANING SCHEDULE

- Scoop litterbox at least 2 times a day
- Monitor for diarrhea
- Clay litter should be dumped and changed every other day for 2 kittens, daily for more than 2 kittens or if kittens have diarrhea.

HEALTH CHECK

- Look over your kitten everyday for any changes or potential medical problems
- Check body and fur
- Look closely at eyes, in mouth and ears
- Monitor energy levels



PLAYTIME & MENTAL STIMULATION

- Kittens should receive one to two play sessions daily with interactive toys (or more!)
- Remember to discourage play with hands (to avoid play aggression as adults!)
- Interactive toys should not be left unattended with kittens. This is especially important for toys that contain any strings longer than 2 inches!!! (If ingested, strings tangle up in their stomachs and can cause death!)
- Safe solo toys such as balls and stuffed animals can be left out at all times
- Change up the environment in small ways
 - Add cardboard boxes
 - Move things around in the kitten room

SOCIALIZATION

- Socialize kittens a minimum of 2-3 visits a day. Visits should last at least 15 minutes
- Under socialized kittens need 3-4 visits that last around 20 minutes each.
- Encourage affectionate behavior
- Kittens should meet new people a few times a week, if possible!

HANDLING

- Medium or long-hair kittens especially may benefit from daily exposure to brushing in very small amounts
- Gently handling paws in preparation for nail trimming
- Exposure to being picked up and held.

VACCINATION AND SURGERY SCHEDULES

VACCINATIONS

All cats & kittens cared for by the Humane Society will receive the following tests, vaccines and procedures:

- Tests done to check for Feline Leukemia and Feline Aids
- FVRCP Booster shots (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia)
- Microchip implant
- Spay/Neuter surgery
- Rabies vaccine (for cats & kittens 16 weeks and older)

WHEN DO KITTENS GET THESE THINGS DONE?

This is a rough guideline for your kittens' shots and surgeries. Keep in mind, dates can change due to scheduling conflicts at the shelter or illnesses. Foster Department staff will work with you and make sure you're aware of any upcoming shots or surgeries that need to be done.

- **FELV & FIV Test** will happen upon intake.
- **First FVRCP Booster** happens at 5 weeks.
- **Second FVRCP Booster** happens 3 weeks after the first shot.
- **Third FVRCP booster** happens 3 weeks after the second shot.
- **Spay/Neuter surgery** will take place when the kittens are 8 or 9 weeks old or when they are at least 2 lbs.
- **Microchip implant** will generally take place at the time of the spay/neuter surgery (8 or 9 weeks).
- **Rabies Vaccine** will be given to any adult cat upon intake. Kittens cannot receive this vaccine until they are at least 16 weeks old.

Routine Cleaning for Foster Homes

Routine cleaning practices to control disease spread include:

- **Setting up an isolation area for foster animals**
- **Practicing good hand hygiene before and after handling animals or objects in isolation area.**
- **Cleaning and disinfecting items in the isolation area.**

The Isolation Area

Your isolation area should include the following:

- Isolation from other pets in home
- Surfaces that are easy to disinfect (vinyl or tile floor, not carpet)
- Pet-proof
- Stocked with supplies that are dedicated to the area and easy to sanitize.
- Low human traffic

Hand Hygiene

Clean hands before and after handling animals or items in the animals' environment.

Alcohol-based hand sanitizers:

- Can be used when hands are not visibly soiled.
- Provides a rapid kill of most transient microorganisms.
- Generally speaking, to provide the most hygienic environment possible, we do recommend washing hands with soap and water whenever possible.

Cleaning and disinfecting agents

Soaps and detergents are not the same as disinfections. It's important to understand how these two groups of products work and to use them appropriately.

- **Soaps and Detergents** are cleaning agents that work by suspending dirt and grease and breaking up organic matter. Soaps do not kill germs. Dish and laundry soaps are common examples of detergents.
- **Disinfectants** are chemical solutions that kill germs. The particular germs killed depend on the ingredients in the disinfectant. While some disinfectants serve a dual purpose and have some cleansing properties, many do not effectively removed dirt and grease. An example of a disinfectant would be a watered down bleach solution.



Fostering an Expecting Pregnant Cat

General Feline Pregnancy Bullet Points

- Cats have a gestation period of roughly 63-65 days – around 9 weeks.
- Usually pregnancy is detectable by palpation between four-six weeks. At this time you may also increased weight, enlarged abdomen, reddening or enlargement of mammary glands and production of milk.
- Behavioral changes may be seen in the last 24 hours of pregnancy. Queens may seem restless as they search for a place to give birth. She may also show a lack of interest in food during this time. She also may start to pant and have a clear discharge from her vulva.
- During the last couple of weeks of pregnancy especially, the queen needs an extremely calm and quiet environment away from the daily hustle of the house.
- During pregnancy the mother will need to eat more than usual, especially in the last three to four weeks of pregnancy when she needs approximately 25% more food than normally needed. This feeding regimen should be kept the same until the kittens are weaned (Queens use more than double their normal energy requirements when nursing kittens).
 - ***To keep things simple, we usually recommend leaving kibble out at all times for whelping and nursing queens.***
- Pregnant, birthing and lactating queens should always have access to lots of fresh clean water (be sure to keep this away from kittens to avoid kittens drowning).

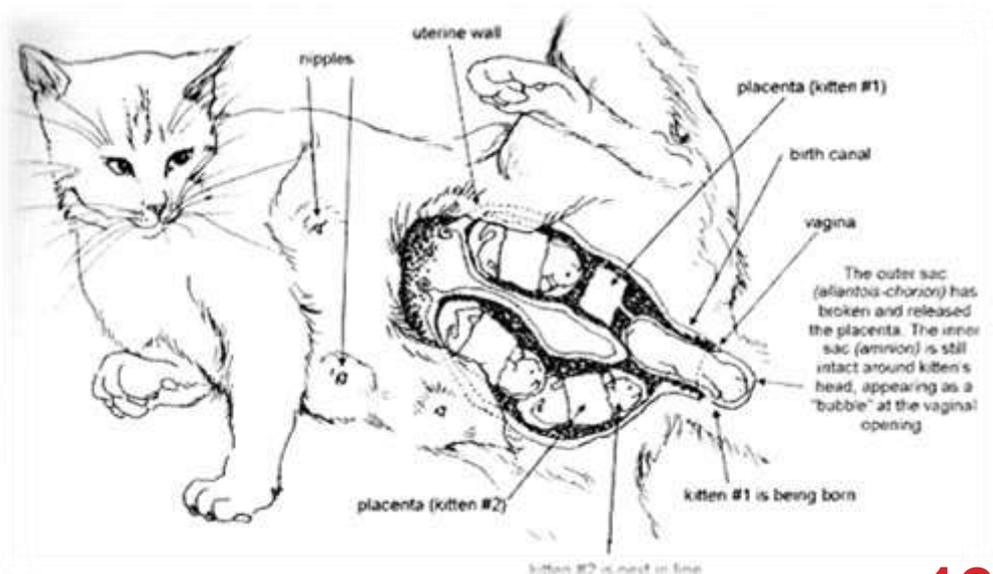
The Birthing Process

Birth & Kitting

Being a good midwife to your momma foster cat involves staying quiet and calm. Take care not to disturb her or make her anxious; you can watch from a distance. The birthing process happens in three stages.

- **First Stage:** Lasts up to 36 hours (may be shorter if queen has given birth before)
 - There are intermittent contractions but NO straining is seen.
 - The queen is restless and there are usually repeated visits to the bed.
 - Late in the first stage, some scratching of the bedding may be seen.
- **Second Stage:** Lasts 5-30 minutes for each kitten.
 - There are stronger contractions
 - The fetal membranes (water bag) appear briefly at the vulva and burst. Liquid is usually cleared up by the cat
 - Active straining starts and the kitten usually comes out head first (however, breach can be normal.)
 - Once the head is out, one or two strains from the cat should expel the kitten.
 - The mother breaks the bag and chews through the cord and licks the kitten – this cleans it and encourages it to start to breathe.

- **Third Stage:** Passage of the membranes and dark flesh mass of the placenta or afterbirth
 - This usually follows right away (although occasionally two kittens are born followed by two sets of membranes)
 - Try to count the number of placentae to ensure one is passed for each kitten. If they are not all passed within four to six hours, vet advice should be sought. Bear in mind, the queen will usually eat the placenta to hide evidence of birth.
 - A red-brown vaginal discharge may be seen for up to three weeks after the birth. It is abnormal if it is green or foul smelling – although there may normally be a small amount of greenish discharge after the kitten or placenta.



FOSTERING MOM CAT & KITTENS

Fostering a mom cat with kittens is a very exciting and rewarding job. You will get to experience first hand the special relationship between a mom and her kittens as well as the stages of development in their relationship. This chapter will help you be a supportive foster parent and will address what to expect, normal behavior, problem behavior and troubleshooting.

WHAT TYPE OF SETTING DO MOMS NEED?

In one word: **CALM!** Instinct tells mom cats to keep their kittens safe and in order to feel safe they need privacy, quiet and minimal activity. Stress can cause cats to become aggressive, not take care of their babies properly and in some instances, can even cause extreme behaviors (such as cannibalism.) Your role is to give the mom cat the type of environment where she can feel comfortable raising her young.

Every household that intends to foster a mother cat should have a separate room away from the daily hustle. A home with no other pets is ideal but if you do have pets, you should be able to prevent them from going up to the door of the fostering room. If you have a dog in your home while fostering a momma cat, it's extremely important to keep them quiet to keep stress levels down. If your home environment is a loud one or very active, you may want to consider a different type of animal to foster.

HOME INTRODUCTION

It is best to set up the room ahead of time. Ideally, you should do this before you pick up the animals from the Humane Society. The room should have one or two larger "safe spaces" or nests, boxes on their sides or an empty litterbox lined with towels, etc. Mom will want to choose somewhere to keep her babies. The Humane Society may also be able to provide you with a kennel (which you can take the door off of) that can make a nice cubby for mom and litter.

When you first let mom out, do not pet her or make too many advances. Leave her alone with the kittens to explore her new home. Adult cats can take a while to adjust to new places. It is normal if they take a few days to come out of hiding.

LITTERBOX

Ideally, the litterbox will be as far away from the food and water as possible. It should have regular, unscented clay litter in it. It should be scooped two times per day and be dumped out and changed weekly. Once the kittens start using the litterbox, you will likely need to add low-sided boxes for easy kitten access (a shoebox lid can work great for this stage). You will also need to clean more frequently.

HANDLING & SOCIALIZATION

Proceed slowly with any adult cat that is new to your family, pet her only as much as she is comfortable with and stop petting her at the first signs of discomfort. These signs may include swishing tail, ears laid back or to the sides, head jerks toward your hand, tensing up, cranky meows, moving away, hissing or growling.

Even a momma cat needs play time! Make sure to have solo-play toys as well as interactive play sessions with momma. After kittens are 2-3 weeks old, she may show more interest in play.

MOM'S CARE OF THE KITTENS

For the first few weeks of life, mom should do everything necessary for the kittens. After that you can start sharing some of the kitten care duties with her (if she is willing!) Below is an explanation of the normal care a mom cat gives to her kittens with an approximate timeline, so you will know what behaviors to expect. All cats are different, with some being more attentive moms than others, but if you notice a momma cat failing to care for her babies in any of these functions, let us know immediately!

NURSING: Kittens begin to nurse 1-2 hours after birth. Though born with their eyes closed, they can find their mother by her warmth and she should make this easier by lying near them on her side.

The nursing/suckling relationship occurs over 3 stages:

- **In the beginning**, mom initiates each nursing session, waking the kittens up by licking them and then encircling them with her body. After a little searching, kittens should quickly latch on.
- **The second stage** occurs after the second or third week, when the kitten's eyes and ears are functioning and they can interact with the mother both inside and outside of the nest. At this stage, the kittens also initiate some of the nursing episodes. The mother generally cooperates by lying down and taking up the nursing position.
- **In the third stage**, starting at about 5 weeks after birth, the kittens initiate virtually all nursing. The mother becomes gradually more evasive and uncooperative. Near the end of this stage, the mother cat begins to wean her kittens by becoming less and less available. In wild cats, this is the time when mom would begin providing them with fresh killed prey. You can help in the weaning process by encouraging the babies to eat canned, soaked kibble or dry food (later on).

GROOMING: Kittens receive a lot of grooming and licking from their mothers during their first 2-4 weeks. This anogenital grooming stimulates elimination and the fecal matter and urine are consumed by the mom. This is effective in keeping the nest and babies clean. Later, as the young are able to leave the nest area, the anogenital licking subsides and the young deposit feces and urine nearby. At this point, providing low-sided litter boxes nearby will teach them to use the litterbox. You generally do not need to intervene at this point, though there is more cleaning as things get messier.

WHEN TO SEPARATE MOM & KITTENS

If all members of your feline family are healthy and well-socialized, there may be no reason to separate mom from her babies before 8 weeks or when they are ready to come back for their surgery. However, sometimes there are medical or behavioral reasons to separate mom from the kittens earlier. These include:

1. Mom is not taking care of the babies. Work closely with foster staff to determine this; warning signs include not nursing, not responding to the kittens cries, staying away from the babies that are under 5 weeks and not grooming the babies.
2. Mom is under socialized or has other behavior concerns and is not willing to be handled by people. Mom may also prevent kittens from being handled if she has maternal aggression or if the foster parent is scared to approach. We do not want kittens picking up on this behavior pattern (imprinting) so we will want the babies separated from the mom as soon as medically advisable. We may also want to get the mom back to the shelter earlier so cat staff can work on her behavior.
3. Mom is taking care of the babies but there are medical concerns for the mom, or the babies, which warrant separation. This is not very common; our staff will alert you if this is necessary.

PROBLEM BEHAVIORS IN MOM CATS



MATERNAL NEGLECT

About 8% of kittens die from inadequate maternal care. The deaths can usually be due to hypothermia, if the kitten strays away and is not retrieved, or if improperly nursed at birth and after. Maternal neglect has several causes – some cats seem to lack maternal instincts. In some cases, it is nature's way: if kittens have birth defects or are otherwise weak at birth, the mom may ignore them, or as discussed below, cannibalize them. In many cases, it seems that environmental stress plays a role, and thus it is very important that the momma cat be kept quiet and calm with few visits. Cats should primarily be left alone the first two weeks postpartum except to feed, clean and check in on the babies a few brief times a day.

You will need to watch for daily signs that a mother is neglecting her young, especially in the first few weeks. Call us if:

- The mother spends all her time away from kittens
- She does not groom or nurse them frequently
- The kittens cry and mom does not respond

MATERNAL AGGRESSION (TOWARD ANIMALS): Aggressive behavior towards cats or dogs is very common in mom cats, as they are trying to protect their young. Please do not try to introduce your foster mother cat to your personal pets. This can be very stressful and offers no advantages. Please block any access they may have for seeing other cats or dogs and always be sure they are kept separate.

If for some reason the mom cat sees another animal and becomes upset, quickly remove the source of stress (cover window, close door, etc.) and leave the room. Do not try to comfort or reassure momma & babies. Come back in 20 minutes or so to check on them.

MATERNAL AGGRESSION (TOWARD PEOPLE)

Occasionally, mother cats have strong protective instincts against humans as well. They may hiss, growl or strike out if you approach kittens. At the Humane Society of El Paso, we try to screen against these behaviors before taking in an animal but sometimes they will develop down the line. If faced with this situation, move very slowly around the mom and her nest area. Wear a long sleeved sweatshirt as you clean. Try to bribe her with tasty treats such as chicken or fish. DO NOT correct the cat by spraying her with water or yelling. Remember, she is acting out of a natural instinct to protect her young and if you act in a threatening manner, matters may escalate. Be patient and understand that many of these behaviors can go away as babies grow.

Call Foster Staff at the first sign of maternal aggression for advice and evaluation of your situation. In some cases, we may advise the return of mom and kittens, or just the mom, depending on the age and health of the kittens.



Foster Tip!

Momma cats will teach discipline to their kittens. This is normal and may look aggressive. Simply observe and make sure this isn't an ongoing issue.

ORPHANED KITTENS: 0-2 WEEKS

0-2 WEEKS OLD

At birth, kittens are born with their eyes closed, unable to hear and not able to walk. They will also not have any teeth and cannot eat on their own. Their umbilical cords will still be attached and will naturally fall off after a couple of weeks (do not attempt to remove this! Doing so could lead to fatal hemorrhage.)

Environment

It is important for newborn kittens to have a safe and warm environment. Open top crates are easiest because of easy accessibility. Warmth is key for kittens this age! They are unable to regulate their own body temperature and if it drops too low, they cannot digest their food. 97 degrees F is considered an ideal temperature.

Kittens should have a blanket between them and heating element (heating pad or heating discs). Be sure half of the environment is heated and leave the other half **UNHEATED**, this will allow them to crawl off if they get too warm.

Small stuffed animals work as a replacement cuddle buddy and will offer kittens something to warm up to and suckle on.



1 tablespoon = 14 mL

Feeding

- A small 2 oz. bottle is recommended for this age. Use a heated needle to poke a hole OR cut a small X in the nipple to allow formula to flow properly. If slow consistent drops are coming out, it is a good size (not pouring out as this may cause kitten to choke, or aspirate (Milk gets in their lungs).
- To prevent the possibility of spreading viruses between the kittens and other pets in your house, keep a “kitten gown” (a robe, sweatshirt, etc.) in the kittens’ room to wear during feeding and handling of the kittens. You may also wear gloves if you wish, and remember to always wash your hands well before and after feeding your bottle babies.
- Formula will be provided by the foster program. Powdered and liquid is available, though powdered lasts longer and is more cost effective. Never make more powder than is needed during a 12 hour period (be sure to refrigerate mixture between uses).
- Do not microwave a bottle (it will get too hot), instead warm water in a coffee mug and place bottle in heated water until it is warmed.
- Be sure kittens are always placed on their bellies when feeding! Laying on their backs could cause them to choke, or aspirate (Milk gets in their lungs).
- The first few feedings are the most difficult. Gently wash the nipple to remove the plastic taste. Gently open their mouths and place the nipple inside and lightly squeeze the bottle so the kitten can taste the formula.
- A newborn kitten will need to nurse around every 1-2 hours. Their stomachs can only hold around 2 mL per feeding and they need to eat around 13-14 mL daily.
- At a week old their stomachs can hold 6 mL per feeding and need to eat 40 mL daily.
- At 2 weeks they can go 2-3 hours in between feedings. Their stomachs can hold about 9 mL per feeding and need to eat about 68 mL per day.

ORPHANED KITTENS: 0-2 WEEKS

Elimination

Normally momma cats will lick kittens to stimulate urination and defecation. If a kitten doesn't have mom, you can do this by using warm wash cloths and gently rub the kittens' genitals in a circular motion. They will normally urinate quickly but it can take longer for them to defecate. If after a minute you don't have any success, stop and try later.

Kittens will normally only defecate once or twice a day but it isn't uncommon for them to go 24 hours.

Be sure kittens are clean and dry before putting them back in their nest.

Cleaning

At this age kittens cannot regulate their own heat. They can chill quickly and become sick so bathing is **NOT** recommended.

Using a warm wash cloth you can wipe them off. Plus this method simulates a mother cat's grooming so it can be comforting.



Foster Tip: Inappropriate Suckling

When kittens are weaned too early or don't have a mother to nurse on, we sometimes observe them trying to suckle on a litter mate (often they will suckle another kitten's genitals). This can be detrimental to the kitten being sucked on and needs to be addressed immediately. If you are able to slip a small sock over the kitten's rear, sometimes this can stop the behavior. Often, separation is the only way to be sure kittens are not being inappropriately suckled.

ORPHANED KITTENS: 3 WEEKS

3 WEEKS OLD

At this age, a kitten's incisors will start to come out and their ears will start to stand up. Their eyes are fully open. They will start moving around and hearing sounds and they will also start to play!

Environment

Most of a kitten's environmental needs are about the same at this age except you may want to get them a medium size airline crate to allow them more room to move. You can also start introducing toys.

Feeding

Bottle feedings can be pushed to every 3-4 hours. At 3 weeks kittens can hold about 14 mL per feeding and should be taking in around 95 mL daily.

Kittens can start to be weaned at 3 ½ weeks. To begin weaning, take a shallow lipped container (i.e.. Tupperware lid) and place some gruel (wet kitten food mixed with water) onto it, until it reaches an applesauce consistency. Be patient as kittens will likely walk right through it. You can try to put a bit of food on their mouth to give them a taste. This could take several feedings or a few days. At this time start leaving a SHALLOW dish of water out for kittens.

Elimination

Kittens will still need help to go potty at this stage. They will however start to experiment with the litter box at this age. This means they will start to get messy and may require more consistent cleanings. Be sure they are dry before they are put back in the nest!

Cleaning

It still is not recommended to give full baths at this age however giving quick "butt baths" will help with inevitable messiness. Use WARM water and dawn dish soap to quickly clean their tail and rear end/back legs. Always have towels and hair dryer ready to dry before putting back in the nest.

Socialization

You can begin to handle your kitten more at this stage. Positive handling helps the kitten develop good habits in adult hood. Be gentle and limit handling to one or two people to control disease spread.



ORPHANED KITTENS: 4 WEEKS



4 WEEKS OLD

At this age, kittens' canine teeth will start to pop through and their ears will be standing completely up. Their activity level will jump as well! The kittens will be walking and pouncing and playing.

Environment

Be sure kittens have access to a small, shallow litter box, (shoe box lids work great as a kitty litter boxes). Kittens will still need enough room to sleep and play. Provide toys to satisfy curiosity and playfulness. Stuffed animals are useful to provide comfort. At this age kittens may discover their claws; scratching posts may be a good idea also!

Feeding

Kittens should be eating "gruel" every 4-5 hours, to ensure their blood sugar stays up. They can go 6-8 hours overnight. At this time start leaving a SHALLOW dish of water out for kittens.

Elimination

Kittens should be transitioning from being stimulated to going on their own. Most kittens will instinctually go to a litter box if it is available, though it is normal for them to have accidents. You can try placing a piece of poo in the box to help them get the idea.

Cleaning & Socialization

Still avoid full baths at this age, butt baths are considered best.

At 4 weeks old kittens are able to be handled outside of cleaning and caring for them. Playtime with toys is a good way to start stimulating their senses.

ORPHANED KITTENS: 5 WEEKS

5 WEEKS OLD

At this age, lower molars will start to show. They will also be much more coordinated and will be able to jump and start to climb.

Environment

Kittens at this age can regulate their own body heat however they are still susceptible to getting chilled. They can be moved to a larger crate to let them move and play more. They can even start playing in larger areas. Be sure not to allow too much space between them and their litter box (this could result in potty accidents.)

Feeding

Kittens should be transitioned from eating watered down wet food to eating wet food mixed with dry kibble. Start putting down a small bowl of dry food that has been soaked in warm water and leaving it at all times so the kitten can experiment and eat throughout the day. Keep a close eye on them at this stage because it is difficult to make sure they're getting enough food.

Elimination

Kittens should be able to go potty on their own at this age. However be sure they are never too far away from their litter box as they may still have accidents. Diarrhea can be very common at this age due to the change of diet. If the diarrhea doesn't improve contact the foster staff.

Cleaning

Cleaning needs to happen more often since kittens will likely be covered in food after mealtimes. If the kitten gets completely dirty a full bath can be given (warm water and dawn dish soap can be used.)

However remember a spot bath is **still best** if you are able to suffice. It will allow kittens to stay warmer. You can focus on cleaning their faces, necks, and cheeks. Gently scruff the kitten and clean the dirty areas with a warm wash cloth. Be sure to clean away any caked food.

It is important to keep kittens clean at this age! Clean kittens are more likely to catch on and learn to clean themselves. If a kitten is dirty it can lead to hair loss, broken whiskers and contribute to kitten fading.



ORPHANED KITTENS: 6-8 WEEKS

6-8 WEEKS OLD: Kittens at this age are quite easy to care for.

They are mostly self sufficient and very active. They should begin to get their upper and lower molars.

Environment

Kittens should still spend the night in their crate but during the day they can be out in a small room and able to run out their energy. Continue to provide lots of toys and stuff animals.

Feeding

At 6 weeks old kittens should have transitioned from eating watered down wet food to eating wet food mixed with dry kibble. Kittens should also be eating totally on their own.

Some kittens prefer dry food to canned; but be sure to still give canned food to make sure their water and calorie intake is normal. If kittens are not interested in watered down dry food, try adding it to the wet food. Just make sure not to over feed them. Overfeeding kittens wet food may cause diarrhea.

By 7-8 weeks they should be eating the dry food and given wet food once to twice a day.

Elimination

Kittens should be able to use litter box on their own and should be using it regularly. The litter box should always be near the kitten and needs to be cleaned regularly.

Cleaning

Kittens should start cleaning themselves at this age. Baths should only happen periodically as needed. Baby wipes are a good way to help kitties spot clean

Socialization

This age is when kittens become their most playful. They are coordinated enough to jump on and off things and will likely get into everything. Make sure that they have toys, stuff animals and scratching posts.

Daily handling with people is important. Keep all handling positive. Be sure to play with their toys and pet them all over so they are used to being handled and touched.

Foster Tip

Kittens can often throw fits about changing their diets. Be firm and stay strong. It is very important for them to wean off of formula and wet food eventually and eat only kibble!

Note: Keep in mind, some kittens may not like the wet food. If you are noticing your kitten snubbing the canned food, try only kibble. Some kittens do better skipping canned food and jumping to soaked kibble.

SUMMARY OF ORPHANED KITTEN FEEDING SCHEDULE BY AGE

Age	Feeding Schedule
Under 1 week	Bottle feed every 1-2 hours Should eat ~2mL/cc per feeding Daily intake should be about 13-14 mL/cc
1 week	Bottle feed every 1-2 hours Should eat 6mL/cc per feeding Daily intake should be about 40 mL/cc
2 weeks	Bottle feed every 2-3 hours Should eat 9 mL/cc per feeding Daily intake should be about 68 mL/cc
3 weeks	Bottle feed every 3-4 hours Should eat 14 mL/cc per feeding Daily intake should be about 95 mL/cc
4 weeks	Bottle feed every 3-4 hours Should eat 18 mL/cc per feeding Daily intake should be about 122 mL/cc *May be able to lap from a saucer *Start to introduce a small amount of wet food mixed with formula.
5 weeks	Wean kitten onto gruel (wet kitten food mixed with watered down formula). Consistency should be watery. Weigh regularly to ensure weight gain.
6 weeks	Should be eating wet food. Offer food 4-5 times a day. Can be introduced to hard food soaked in warm water.
7 weeks	Should be eating both wet food and dry food. Offer canned food 2-3 times a day (each kitten should eat a little of 5.5 oz. a day) Leave a bowl of dry food and water out at all times.
8 weeks	Should primarily be eating hard food. Leave the food out at all times You can offer wet food 1-2 times a day to help with weight gain and development.

1 tablespoon = 14 mL

Establishing Good Household Behaviors

LITTERBOX: The litter box you provide for kittens should have low sides so that it is easy for the kittens to get in and out. Plastic boxes are usually the most cost effective and easy to use because they can be sanitized often. Shoebox lids or shallow boxes can be used and discarded afterwards.

Scooping the box twice a day is a good idea. If you have a large group or sick kittens you may need to clean it more often. In addition to scooping, boxes should be dumped and cleaned with soapy water on a weekly basis. **Remember; a clean litter box will encourage good litter box habits and will limit your kittens exposure to germs.**

Many kittens will have issues with the litter box at some point. This could be from a medical concern or due to the fact that the kitten is too young to be housetrained. Another possible problem is that the kitten has too much space to roam and cannot get back to the litter box in enough time to use it.



A FEW TIPS:

- ❖ *Keep the kittens confined to a small territory. The younger the kittens, the smaller the space should be. If they are allowed to have their own space, they should have at least one litter box in each room.*
- ❖ *Return the kitten to its litterbox on a regular basis. Do not force them to stay in the box, just gently place them nearby to remind them.*
- ❖ *Clean all “accidents” with an enzyme cleaner if possible.*
- ❖ *Never yell or punish a kitten for having an accident. Remember! They’re learning!*

Establishing Good Household Behaviors

Discipline – The best way to handle most undesirable feline behaviors is to prevent them.

Kittens are playful and curious. They are likely to explore and test their environment in ways that an adult cat may not. Many kittens will grow out of this as they get older so its best to let them explore while trying to establish good habits.

In most cases its better to distract a kitten from an inappropriate behavior and direct them to something more positive. Distracting a kitten beforehand is even better because it lowers the risk that a kitten may view the distraction as a reward. You can do this by getting their attention with toys, noise, or treats.

Another way to address inappropriate behavior is to modify the environment. This may involve putting plants out of reach or using double sided tape on off-limit surfaces.

Any type of physical punishment, such as nose tapping, scuffing, or spray with water bottles should not be used! Please reach out to foster staff to assess problem behavior and figure out the best way to deal with it.

Playtime– Playtime is very important to the development of kittens. They will need toys to play with so they can occupy their minds as well as getting exercise. It is very important that young kittens have other kitties to wrestle with in order to develop appropriate play skills. If it is possible we try to send kittens out in at least pairs.

There are two types of toys kittens should always have!

- **Solo toys** should be easy to clean and impossible for kittens to swallow. Ping pong balls, toilet paper tubes and kitty balls work really well! These toys can be left out for the kitten even if you aren't there to supervise.
- Interactive toys should **never** be left with unsupervised kittens. These toys are great to encourage kittens to exercise and hunt but if you can't supervise, a kitten could eat or get tangled in them. Interactive toys include anything with string or parts that can come off and cause the kitten harm (i.e.. Wand toys).

Claw Sharpening – Encourage good habits by giving your kittens a cardboard scratching pad if you are able. Encourage use of it by dragging toys across or up the post. Please remember, due to being unable to properly sanitize, cardboard scratchers should be disposed of between fosters.

You can discourage kittens from scratching furniture by distracting them or covering a surface with double sided tape.

Foster Tip

If your foster kitten doesn't have any siblings it is very important that you fill the role and help kitty learn appropriate behavior and play styles!

Socialization & Handling



New People- Many times foster kittens only interact with their foster parents but it is a good idea to expose them to new friends! Of course you should supervise to make sure it is a good experience for the kittens (make sure everyone is gentle with the kittens and properly using toys)

Interacting with respectful kiddos is also a good idea. Children should always be watched when handling foster kittens. If a kitty seems fearful, its best and safest to the child to prove other ways to interact with the kitten that are positive and safe (i.e.. Using toys or feeding treats) Never force interactions if kittens don't seem ready for it.

New Environment – If your kittens are comfortable in their safe room and you are able to kitten proof other areas in your house, you can allow them to explore! Keep the sessions brief and return the kitten to the safe room if they seem overwhelmed. A large dog crate or playpen is another way to safely introduce kittens to new environments. Again, never force these experiences if the kitties seem fearful.

New Noises - It is beneficial to expose kittens to normal noises that exist in a house. For example, you can start with the T.V. at a low volume and increase it slowly as long as the kitten is not uncomfortable. You can run the vacuum briefly in another room, and as the kitten gets used to the noise, you can eventually open the door. You can repeat this with other household appliances. This will help prepare kitten for their lives in their forever homes!

Grooming & Handling- It is important that kittens are handled frequently so that they get used to it. This will make them less defensive about being touched in the future. Typically areas that cats have issues with are toes/paws, chest and belly, and their mouths. Touch these areas in a gentle way, as a part of their daily petting sessions

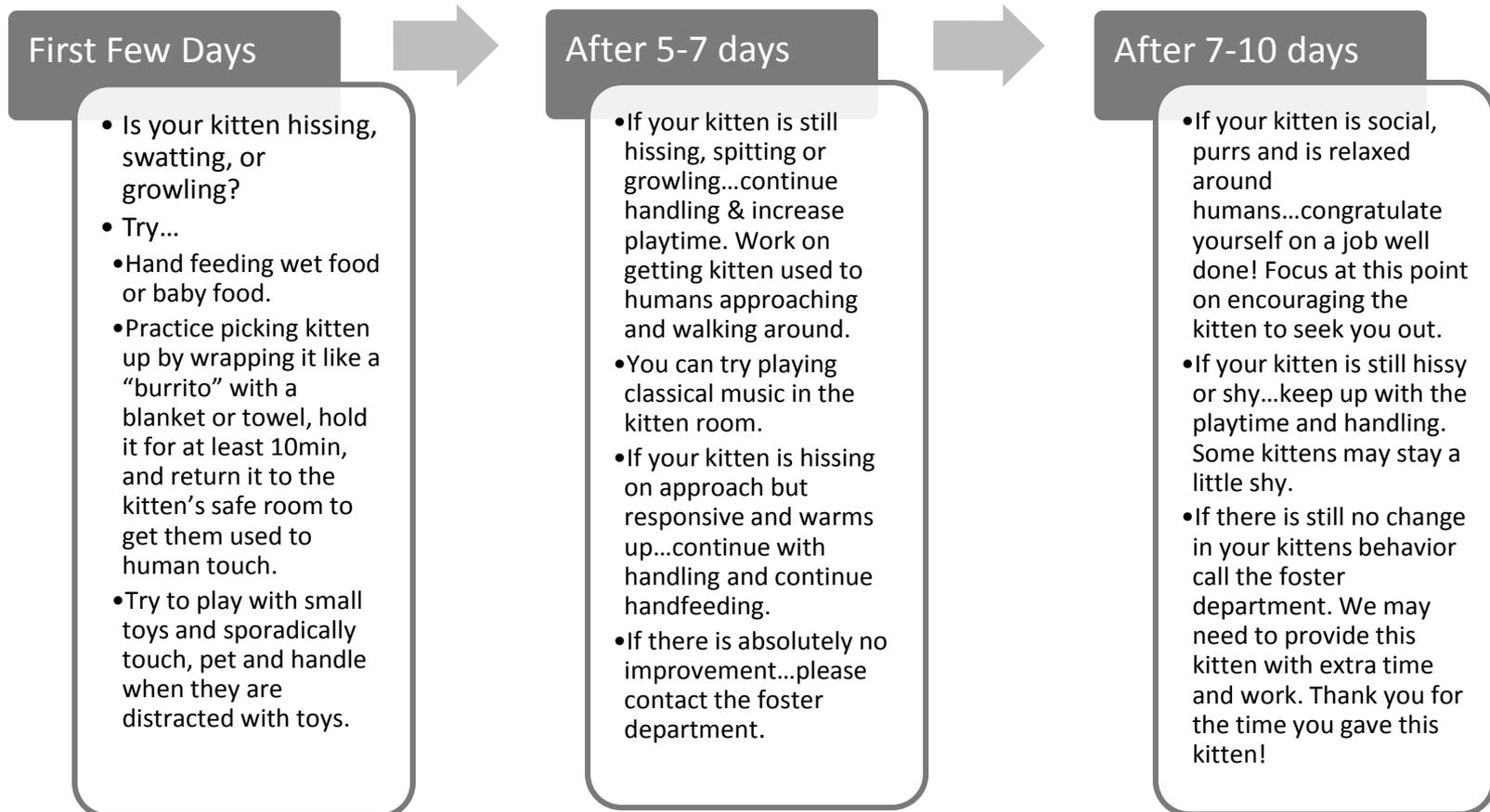
Car trips and carriers – It is helpful to acclimate your foster kittens to a carrier when they are young. Make the carrier a happy place not something to be afraid of. You can keep the door open, keep it in their safe room and put soft blankets and treats in there. This will help kittens see the crate as a good thing.

You can help get kittens accustomed to car rides and travel by making short trips occasionally. These should be separate from their veterinary check ups and can be as simple as a trip around the block.

Be sure to always keep your foster kittens in their carrier when travelling in the car!

Dealing with an Under Socialized Kitten

This chart is meant to help you see the progress in your foster kitten's behavior and know when to contact the foster coordinator for additional assistance.



IS MY FOSTER SICK?

SIGNS OF SICK KITTENS AND WHAT YOU SHOULD DO ABOUT THEM:

Due to the shelter environment and the fact that these kittens have very fragile immune systems, kittens are prone to catching colds and other sicknesses. These illnesses range from mild to life threatening in nature. The HSEP provides treatment for any illnesses that occur.

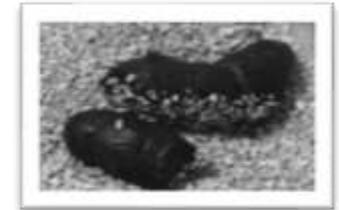
HOW DO I KNOW IF THE KITTENS ARE SICK?

Healthy kittens have a lot of energy when they are awake. They are playful and will only spend a short time in your lap. The eyes and nose should be generally free of any discharge. The stool will be firm and well-shaped. Kittens eat a lot, but the amount they drink depends of how much wet food they consume (the more wet food, the less water). Kittens may sneeze occasionally. They also may scratch a little. These should be considered normal kitten behavior.

It is not always obvious when kittens are sick. Remember, in nature cats will hide any sickness so they don't appear vulnerable.

- **DIARRHEA** — There are three types of cat stool: normal, soft, and diarrhea. Normal stool will be firm and well-shaped. When you first notice soft stool, let the staff know. If it gets worse, call the emergency number so the shelter vet can take a look at the kitten. Diarrhea is completely liquid. It may appear that the kitten is excreting plain water or there may be some color to it. Either way, please let the coordinator know so an appointment can be made. **Monitor the kitten closely; diarrhea can lead to dehydration and become serious quickly.** If you need to collect a stool sample, ask foster staff to provide you with a “fecalizer”. In the event of needing to bring in a sample quickly, grab some stool in a plastic baggie (NO LITTER OR PAPER TOWELS! It will ruin any chances of running a fecal float for the vet staff). Remember, the fresher the stool, the better!

STOOL SAMPLES



Normal Stool



Soft Stool



Diarrhea

Foster Tip

Kittens don't poop solid turds until they are on solid kibble. When they are being fed formula or gruel, soft stool is normal.

IS MY FOSTER SICK? (CONT.)

SIGNS OF SICK KITTENS AND WHAT YOU SHOULD DO ABOUT THEM: (CONT.)

- **VOMITING**— Vomiting is not serious unless it happens more than once. If your kittens keep vomiting, please call the Emergency Foster Phone right away. If the kittens ingested something poisonous, the faster the animal is treated, the better.
- **EYE DISCHARGE**— It is normal for kittens to wake up with a little dark crust in their eyes. If you notice that the kittens have yellow or green thick discharge coming from their eyes all the time, please call the make an appointment to see a shelter vet. You can treat the symptoms of the eye infection by wiping the eye with a warm, wet washcloth until it is time for your appointment
- **SNEEZING / NASAL DISCHARGE**— Occasional sneezing is quite common in small kittens. If the sneezing becomes frequent, examine the discharge coming from the sneeze. If it is clear, the infection is probably viral and medication may not be needed but it is important to monitor the kittens in case the problem gets worse. If the discharge becomes colored (i.e.. Green or yellow) , it is time to make a medical appointment because the kitten may have a bacterial infection; Call Foster Staff. Be sure to monitor the kitten’s breathing as well. If the kittens seem to be struggling to breathe or are breathing with their mouths open, call the foster emergency phone immediately for advice. Also, be sure that the kittens are eating, as a kitten won’t eat what he or she can not smell. (Note: to temporarily help symptoms, you can run a humidifier or have kitties hang out in a steamy bathroom!)
- **LETHARGY** — Healthy kittens are normally active when they are awake. Sick kittens may have low energy and want to just sit in your lap. Each kitten is different, depending on their socialization level, but if you notice a drop in the kitten's individual energy level, it is best to call to set up a time to see the shelter vet. Some under socialized kittens will have a tendency to move less because they are frightened, so it may be difficult to monitor their energy level. If you are not sure whether your kitten is lethargic or just being quiet and maybe scared, please call the foster department. If a kitten can’t be roused or seems to weak to stand, please consider this an emergency and call the emergency foster phone immediately!



Obtain a fecal tube from foster department if you need to bring in a sample.



Remove the top and the spatula.



Use the spatula to scoop a small sample of stool.



Put the stool inside of the tube and dispose of the spatula.



Replace the cap on the tube and label with your name and the name of your foster animal.

ALWAYS bring in a fecal sample to any medical appointments involving diarrhea. Remember: the fresher the sample, the better!

IS MY FOSTER SICK? (CONT.)

- **FLEAS**— Many of the kittens we receive at the shelter were born outdoors so they make come to us with fleas. Also, fleas are simply a part of caring for animals. We try our hardest to clean up the animals as best we can before sending them into your foster home, but sometimes kittens will need a few treatments. Kittens with fleas will scratch themselves a lot. Daily brushing with the flea comb and daily bedding changes with reduce the fleas. Dawn dish soap is gentle enough to use on young animals and may help wash some of the fleas away. ***If using dawn dish soap, you must allow the kittens to sit in the soapy lather for at least 10-15 minutes. This will clog the breathing openings on the fleas and kill them.***
 - DO NOT use over the counter flea shampoos or topical treatment; many of these ARE NOT safe for use on animals under 12 weeks. If the fleas are not getting better, please contact the foster department so we can arrange a safe method for getting rid of these pests.
- **MITES**- Kittens with ear mites will scratch at their ears and shake their heads a lot. You may even notice them tilting their heads to one side. Check their ears to see if there is a dark coffee ground like substance inside. If you notice these symptoms, please contact the foster department so that the kitten can be treated by our medical staff.
- **RINGWORM**- Normally the fur around the lips, eyelids and on the ears is a little thin. This isn't something to worry about. However, if you notice hair thinning or bald patches, please call and make a medical appointment with foster staff. Fur loss is the first indication of ringworm, which is a fungus that can be spread to other pets and even people. The young, the old and individuals with suppressed immune systems are more susceptible. Ringworm is not fatal although it is itchy and hard to get out of your home. If you are able to treat ringworm in your home, the foster department will provide all supplies and medication needed for the treatment. You will need to disinfect your household before taking in another litter of kittens.
- **COCCIDIA & GIARDIA**— Coccidia and Giardia are intestinal parasites found most prevalent in kittens but occasionally found in adults. When a fecal test is positive for Coccidia or Giardia, we will need to prescribe medications to treat them. Coccidia or Giardia will often cause diarrhea in kittens and they can get dehydrated very quickly. **Dehydration is a very serious medical issue and can be fatal to underage kittens.** If you notice signs of dehydration, contact the foster department so that fluids can be administered to the kitten.
- **WORMS (ROUND & TAPE)**— Worms are common in kittens. Roundworms look like spaghetti and will come out in stool or vomit. Tapeworms are white and segmented. Occasionally you will see the whole worm, but more often you will see what looks like dried rice stuck to the kittens bottom. If you see any evidence of worms, please contact the foster department to make an appointment.

KITTEN CHEAT SHEET

Foster Kitten P.A.W.E.S.

- P** • Pointers:
- A** • Appetite
- W** • Weight
- E** • Energy
- S** • Stool

If you are calling the foster department in regards to health concerns, we will likely ask you about P.A.W.E.S.

SITUATION	WHAT TO DO
Kittens are losing weight, not very energetic, no appetite and are having diarrhea.	Call the foster cell phone and arrange a medical appointment as soon as possible. Kittens are so small that any weight loss should be considered significant.
Kittens are having liquid diarrhea for more than 24 hours.	Call the foster cell phone and make an appointment to have the kittens seen. Bring in a stool sample. Diarrhea can cause dehydration which is a significant issue with kittens.
Kittens are not eating, don't seem interested in food but are still energetic.	Make sure kittens are being fed the food appropriate for their age (solid vs. mush). You can also try adding baby food.
Kittens are sneezing and have thick or yellow/green discharge.	Call foster department to make a medical appointment. You could try running a humidifier near kittens. Also, try to warm up their food (if kittens can't smell their food they typically don't eat.)
Kittens have weepy eyes and are red or having green/yellow discharge.	Call foster department to make a medical appointment. In the meantime, use a cotton ball or soft cloth to gently clear the eyes (don't rub!) of any discharge and apply a warm compress for a few minutes a few times a day.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

IS THIS AN EMERGENCY?

CHECK THESE SYMPTOMS TO DETERMINE IF YOU'RE FACING A POSSIBLE EMERGENCY....

- Continuous weight loss
- Continuous diarrhea
- Continuous vomiting
- Bleeding of any kind- nose, urine, stool
- Any trauma – hit by a car, dropped, limp, stepped on
- Difficulty breathing / blocked airway
- Severe lethargy
- Dehydration
- If the animal has vomiting or diarrhea, but is still active, eating, drinking, it can probably wait until the next day to receive help. **However, if the animal is lethargic and shows no interest in food or water, it is wise to seek emergency help at that time!**
- Coughing or sneezing should pose no immediate problems UNLESS accompanied by blood or symptoms such as lethargy, no interest in eating, or dehydration.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE

IF YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL IS HAVING A MEDICAL EMERGENCY...

	Foster Emergency Phone: 915-861-7566
1	Call the Foster Emergency Line at: 915-861-7566
2	Speak to the team member who has the phone. Describe what is happening (give us a PAWES update) and they will let you know if you need to bring the animal to the Humane Society, to an off site veterinarian or (if it is after hours) to an emergency vet clinic.
3	Bring your animal to the clinic that you are authorized to go to (ALWAYS get authorization BEFORE you go to a vet!)
4	Make sure to tell the clinic you are a Humane Society Foster Parent, give them the Foster Manager's contact information as the main point of contact for the animal (so you will not be financially responsible for the visit).
5	Before leaving the clinic, always ask for a copy of the treatment sheet. Information on this sheet is important for both the animals file as well as the shelter's records.
6	Make sure to call the Foster Department in the morning to fill in on the current status of the animal. It is possible (if the animal went to an emergency vet) that the foster animal will need to come in to see a shelter vet for a follow-up visit.



West Side El Paso

Crossroads Animal Clinic
4910 Crossroads Dr.
(915)584-3459



Northeast El Paso

Northeast Veterinary Clinic
9405 Dyer
(915)755-2231



Far East El Paso

Vista Hills Animal Hospital
1426 Lomaland Dr.
(915)592-5867



EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS VETERINARIAN

Animal Emergency Center
1220 Airway Blvd.
(915)545-1148

****Please note: Only use these vet clinics if it has been cleared with the foster manager. If you take your foster animal to a clinic without authorization, you will be liable for the costs!***

EMERGENCY PROCEDURE – LOST ANIMAL

IN THE EVENT THAT YOUR FOSTER ANIMAL IS LOST...PLEASE FOLLOW THESE STEPS

Obviously, any cat or kitten fostered for the Humane Society of El Paso needs to be kept indoors AT ALL TIMES! Not only is this for their safety, it is also important because your home is new to them and they may be frightened enough to bolt.

If this situation happens to you...please follow these steps!

1. Call the foster department (or the foster emergency line) immediately! We MUST know as soon as this happens! We will contact animal services and try to get their help in the matter. We will also clarify with you that you have proper documentation of the animal's vaccinations in case you need them for Animal Services.
2. You can try to locate the cat in your neighborhood by calling their name. If you see the cat, you can try luring them to you with tasty treats (fresh fish, fresh chicken, etc.)
3. If by chance you are able to catch the animal, please let the foster team know immediately.

CONTACT INFORMATION



Foster Department Office Phone
(915) 532-6971 ext.130 & ext. 131
Saturday & Sunday: 9 am – 5 pm
Monday – Friday: 9 am – 6 pm

Need more supplies? Have a question? Is there a non emergency situation happening with your foster?
Give us a call or text the foster cell phone!



Foster Cell Phone
(915) 861-7566
Saturday & Sunday: 9 am – 5 pm
Monday – Friday: 9 am – 6 pm

Do you need to shoot a quick text to ask for supplies?
Have a quick question? You're more than welcome to call or text the foster cell during business hours.



Foster EMERGENCY Line
(915) 861-7566
Sunday – Saturday: after business hours.

If you are experiencing an EMERGENCY with your foster animal, please use this number after hours to get in contact with the foster manager who will then walk you through the next steps.

Please Note: The Foster cell phone is taken home with a member of the foster team every evening.

*Please remember to contact this line for EMERGENCY SITUATIONS only after hours.
Thank you!*

Rosario Olmos

Foster Manager

rolmos@hselpaso.org

Look for our Facebook page ONLY for foster families! Request to join & we will approve!

You can use this page to share photos, ask advice or share foster stories.

HSEP: Paws for the Cause – Foster Families



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