

# BASIC KITTEN CARE

## KITTENS UNDER 4 WEEKS

### HOUSING

For bottle feeding kittens (0-4 weeks old), it is ideal to keep them confined in a carrier or crate with a heating pad on LOW (heating pad should be under towels/blankets and not in direct contact with the kitten). Kittens need the heat to stay warm. As kittens grow you will increase their amount of space.

### FEEDING INSTRUCTIONS

**Formula:** Bottle baby kittens eat kitten milk replacement (KMR), which can be purchased at any pet food store or online, along with kitten bottles.

Directions for Mixing KMR powder: Gently stir or shake one part powdered KMR into two parts warm water (a part may be a teaspoon, tablespoon or cup). Do not mix more KMR than can be consumed in 24 hours. Do not use a blender. Be sure the formula is lump free! Reconstituted KMR should be kept refrigerated.

AGE	WEIGHT	AMOUNT PER FEEDING	SCHEDULE
0-1 week	50-150 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	550-850 grams	Weaning: offer ample wet food	Every 6 hours



**Position:** Lay the kitten in a natural, belly-down position -- never, ever on his/her back. Gently slide the bottle into the kitten's mouth and slowly drip formula onto the tongue. The kitten should begin to swallow. Very slowly continue to drip formula into the mouth. If the kitten latches on and is suckling, that's great! Just make sure that she isn't eating too quickly; help the kitten keep a slow and steady flow.

### MANUAL ELIMINATION (STIMULATION):

Kittens aged 0-4 weeks old will need help eliminating. You can use baby wipes, a warm, wet washcloth, tissue, or gauze to help stimulate their genitals. Rub the material in a circular motion on their stomach and move down to their genitals. It may take lots of tries and effort to get them to go! If you need some support, check out [kittenlady.org/stimulation](http://kittenlady.org/stimulation). Kittens should be stimulated before and after every feeding.

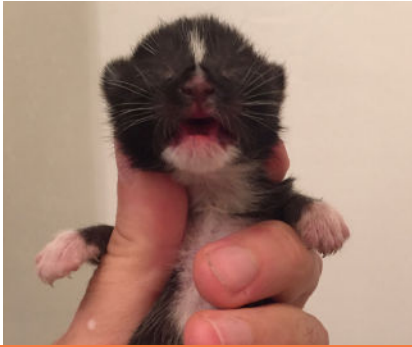
## KITTENS OVER 4 WEEKS

At 4 weeks old, kittens can be transitioned to using a litter box and eating wet kitten food. Place a shallow litter box near them and watch them figure it out! Introduce wet kitten food by making it available in a shallow dish or placing it in their mouth. Continue bottle feeding KMR as needed. When the kitten reaches 2 pounds (approx. 8 weeks), contact Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA for a spay/neuter appointment.

We are here to help! If you have questions about kitten care, please contact our foster department at [foster@pasadenahumane.org](mailto:foster@pasadenahumane.org).



# DETERMINING A KITTEN'S AGE



## NEWBORN

- Umbilical cord attached
- Eyes closed
- Ears folded
- Can't regulate body temp



## 1 WEEK

- No umbilical cord
- Eyes closed
- Ears folded
- Eyes open at 8-12 days



## 2 WEEKS

- Eyes completely open, blue color
- Wobbly on their feet



## 3 WEEKS

- Incisors emerging
- Ears unfolded
- Discovering litterbox



## 4 WEEKS

- Canines emerging
- Vision improving
- **Walking confidently**



## 5 WEEKS

- Premolars emerging
- Weaning slowly onto wet kitten food



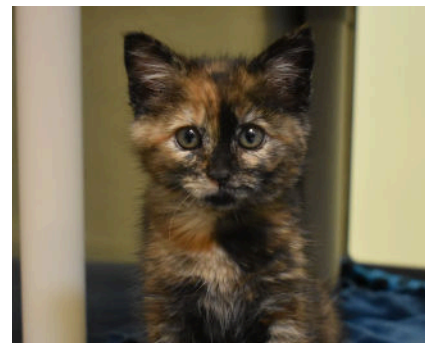
## 6 WEEKS

- All milk (deciduous) teeth have emerged
- Eating confidently



## 7 WEEKS

- Transitioning to adult eye color
- Coordinated and playful



## 8 WEEKS

- Once 2 pounds, kittens can be **spayed/neutered** and placed in their forever home!



*Adapted from Kitten Lady*



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