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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>WEIGHT</th>
<th>AMOUNT PER FEEDING</th>
<th>SCHEDULE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-1 week</td>
<td>50-150 grams</td>
<td>2-6 ml</td>
<td>Every 2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 weeks</td>
<td>150-250 grams</td>
<td>6-10 ml</td>
<td>Every 2-3 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2-3 weeks</td>
<td>250-350 grams</td>
<td>10-14 ml</td>
<td>Every 3-4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 weeks</td>
<td>350-450 grams</td>
<td>14-18 ml</td>
<td>Every 4-5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-5 weeks</td>
<td>450-550 grams</td>
<td>18-22 ml</td>
<td>Every 5-6 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-8 weeks</td>
<td>550-850 grams</td>
<td>Weaning: offer ample wet food</td>
<td>Every 6 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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. Kittens should be stimulated before and after every feeding.

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. 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.

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.
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