

Assess their health.

What to look for? Get an idea of how old the kittens are to know their needs. Take a look at their physical appearance and how active they are.

Kittens who are taken care of look well fed, clean, no crustiness on the eyes, no injuries, and are not meowing desperately for food. These kittens look very comfortable therefore, not showing signs of being in danger or abandoned. Most likely mom will arrive on time for her next feeding.

Abandoned kittens usually meow desperately because they are starving or the opposite, they are lethargic due to lack of nutrients or dehydration. These kittens usually look dirty and have crusty eyes. Newborn abandoned kittens will lose weight right away and become dangerously dehydrated. If the kittens are ill/injured take action immediately. Keep the kittens warm, then feed them. Start calling your local cat rescue organizations.



Lethargic kitten found malnourished and dangerously dehydrated on the left. Two weeks later, cared by Animal Samaritans on the right.

What resources are available when rescuing an abandoned kitten?

Keep in mind that the minute you rescue kittens, it becomes your responsibility to keep them safe and sound.

During kitten season, many rescue organizations will be over their capacity and many will refer you to other organizations. Some will not have room to take the kittens in but will provide information and supplies needed according to their ages to care for them yourself.

When rescue organizations take in kittens, they properly care for them through their foster volunteer program by providing the essentials. In addition, the kittens are also given veterinary care to keep track of their health. Once the kittens turn two months old, they are spayed/neutered, given vaccines, and a microchip. Once provided these services, the kittens are available for adoption.

TNR Program

TNR stands for **trap-neuter-release** of feral cats. This is a volunteer based program caring for feral cat colonies by feeding them and also trapping to spay/neuter them and treat them if needed. The feral cats are returned to their colonies to live a fulfilling cat life without reproducing.

Get involved!

Donate to your local **TNR** program or volunteer to help reduce the amount of abandoned, sick or injured kittens and cats.



I Found Kittens, HELP!



Veterinary Clinics

72120 Pet Land Place
Thousand Palms, CA 92276
760.343.3477

42150 Jackson Street
Suite B106
Indio, CA 92203
760.343.3477

No-Kill Animal Shelter/Adoption Center

72307 Ramon Road
Thousand Palms, CA 92276
760.601.3918

To Donate Visit
www.animalsamaritans.org/babyshower

Be patient, give mom time to return.

Wait! Not all abandoned kittens need rescuing. In many situations, found kittens have not been abandoned. Mom is out looking for food or is in the middle of moving her kittens to a safer spot. Unless you see mom deceased, do not remove newborn kittens right away. Newborn kittens have a better chance of survival if they stay with their mother.

If the location is not safe for the kittens, move them somewhere close but safer. This way their mother will find them when she returns.

It is highly recommended to wait a couple of hours for mom to return. In the mean time, assess the kittens' health and estimate their age. If mom does not return, you can start calling rescue organizations for help.

****If the kittens are in bad shape, act immediately.***



These kittens look taken care of, possibly 2-3 weeks old. Due to their age, they cannot eat on their own, they depend on their mother.

TEENY TINIES

The tiniest, most vulnerable kittens require gentle and frequent care.

NEWBORN



- umbilical cord attached, eyes closed, ears folded
- can't regulate body temp.

1 WEEK



- eyes closed, ears folded, no umbilical cord
- eyes open at 8-12 days

2 WEEKS



- eyes completely open, blue color
- wobbly on their feet

Newborn to 4 weeks old kittens must be bottle fed with **Kitten Milk Replacer** only. Feed and stimulate to go to the bathroom every 2hrs. If constipated or with diarrhea, not eating well and/or lethargic, seek veterinary assistance.

TEENY WEANIES

As kittens age, you'll help them reach important developmental milestones.

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

5 to 6 weeks old kittens will transition from bottle feeding to eating on their own. Offer wet food mixed with **Kitten Milk Replacer** to wean them. Place a small cardboard box with litter to start litter box training.

BIG KIDS CLUB

These social, independent, and coordinated kittens are almost ready for adoption.

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!

Kitten chart provided by Kitten Lady. Go to www.kittenlady.org for more information regarding kitten care.



Animal Samaritans

I found a kitten but no cat rescue organization can accept it at this moment. What should I do?



At this point it has been established that the kitten needs your help. Some rescue organizations will ask you to foster until the kitten is independent. This means the kitten is

eating and using the bathroom on its own. In the mean time, be prepared for a successful foster term. You've got this!

Newborn –4 Weeks of Age

These kittens need your help to survive. You must feed and stimulate your new foster to go to the bathroom every 2-3 hours.

Items Needed:

1. Kitten Milk Replacer

No other food needed, read directions on how much water to add for powder formula.

2. Kitten Bottle & Miracle Nipple

Kittens need to latch on to the nipple of the bottle to eat well. Miracle nipples are the best for kittens.

3. Cat Carrier

Keep the kitten inside a cat carrier for safety.

4. Heating Pad

Kittens cannot regulate their own body temperature. Make sure its warm and not HOT!

5. Soft Blankets

4-5 Weeks of Age

These kittens are in the transitional stage from bottle feeding to learning how to eat on their own. Many can be offered a litter box for training but not all will use it right away. Be patient.

Items Needed:

1. Kitten Milk Replacer & Kitten Can Food

Offer a mix of can food with kitten milk replacer to help the kitten eat independently. Expect a mess.

2. Litter & Small Litter Box

Start litter training with a small box. Expect a mess.

3. Safe Place for Playtime

At around this age, kittens want to walk and explore. Provide an area where they can safely exercise and play. Do not expose them to other pets.

5 Weeks of Age and Older

These kittens are about to become independent. Once they are eating and going to the bathroom alone, try your luck again with cat rescue organizations.

Items Needed:

1. Kitten Can Food

2. Bowls for Food and Water

3. Soft Bed

4. Kitten Toys

5. Carrier for Traveling

6. Litter Box and Litter

For bottle feeding tips and more go to

www.kittenlady.org

Cat Rescue Organizations in the Coachella Valley

Animal Samaritans SPCA 760.601.3757

Kittyland Cat & Kitten Rescue 760.251.2700

Friends of the Palm Springs Animal Shelter

760.416.5718

Loving All Animals 760.834.7000