

WEANED KITTEN

Kittens, eating on their own between 4-8+ weeks old

Why do they need to be fostered?

- Spay/Neuter Surgery - A kitten must be healthy and at 2.5+lbs/8+ weeks before they can be spayed and therefore go up for adoption, so, in the mean time, they need a safe, secure and healthy (Stress Free) place to grow.
- Socialization – This is the best time to focus on proper play and cuddles between humans and kittens. Focus on “prey” toys like stuffed mice, balls and string toys. Discourage hand play and biting humans as much as possible. Feel free to expose them to normal household noises and even encourage other people to come and play with them. The more social they are, the faster they are adopted!

Your Job:

- Provide play and cuddle time. Unlike younger kittens, these guys don’t need attention every couple of hours, but as much as you can provide is great. It is best that at least twice a day, you sit and play with them until they become tired and curl up with you for a nap. Have fun!!
- Observation is key! Keep an eye out for:
 - Lethargic, has the kittens energy levels changed?
 - Eating habits, are they eating and drinking? Are they excited by wet food?
 - Litter box habits, are they pooping and peeing? Poop at least once a day.
 - Poop ! Poop should be like a tootsie roll. Diarrhea issues should be addressed as soon as it is noticed. (Diarrhea with Vomit – Contact Shannon IMMEDIATELY!)
 - Snot ! Eye or nose snot should be reported as soon as you notice it! Same with sneezing or an eye (or both) being red rimmed or half shut. These are all signs of an URI (upper respiratory infections/kitty cold)
 - Any change in Behavior! If you have any questions or are unsure always feel free to ask!
- Health checks: Shannon will perform health checks at your house or at adoption events. Depending on development stage and medications needed (standard worming medication is administered every two week) she will check in with you weekly, every other week or once a month.
- Pictures, Videos and Bios: Help us get these guys adopted as quickly as possible. Take pictures and videos and send them to us to post on-line and Facebook! When your kittens become available for adoption, we would love for you to write a bio for your kits. You know them best! For those who can, help find your kits a furrever home by attending adoption events. I find, that as foster parents, we are especially motivated to find great homes for our babies!

The Setup:

- **FOOD:** Dry food should be “free” feed or always available. Wet food should be provided two (if possible three) times a day.
- **WATER:** Fresh water refreshed every day (rinse out bowl) offered all the time. Due to a busy play drive, they may knock over the water bowl, so be sure to check on it as much as possible.
- **LITTER BOX:** Have litter box easily accessible at all times to encourage proper use. (Low sided litter box makes it easier for them to get into it!) NEVER use clumping litter or clay litter with kittens under six weeks old, as baby kittens have a tendency to eat it and it will clump in their bellies.
- **WARMTH:** While kittens this age are not as sensitive as bottle babies, they still need help staying warm. Perfect ambient temperature is 75 degrees. Always offer a bed or pillow for them to sleep on so they are not in direct contact with the floor and many enjoy a heating pad (set on LOW and always with a towel over the pad– no direct skin to heating pad contact. Also be careful of water placement! If it is a small space, make sure they have a choice to be on or off the pad)
- **TOYS:** At this stage they are super playful and need to have toys to keep them occupied for when you are not there.
- **SEPARATE FROM YOUR ANIMALS:** Please remember to keep your pets separate from your foster kittens, especially other cats in the household. This is for both your cat’s health and the kittens. Your foster kittens may have come from a shelter environment, and may be carrying a host of issues. **COMPLETE separation is mandatory for the first two weeks.** This is the typical gestation period for many contagious issues. Also be careful of “supplies” being mixed together. For example, water or food dishes, do not mix your foster kittens up with your cat’s bowls or toys or litter boxes, etc. Ask us about safely introducing your dogs or other cats to the kittens! It is often helpful to have the kittens exposed to dogs and adult cats, but it needs to be done in a careful manner (NEVER IN THE FIRST TWO WEEKS), so check with us first!
- **WATCH OUT FOR: *Hiding places*** – you would be surprised where a kitten can get itself stuck in. Look for areas under cabinets or between appliances where they can hide themselves! ***Plants***, many common houseplants are toxic to cats and can be fatal to kittens. Remove all plants from the Foster’s location. Also for those using bathrooms, keep the ***toilet bowl lid*** down. Make sure there are not hiding places they can become trapped in! Please do not leave ***string toys*** with kittens unattended. In rare cases, they can get wrapped up in the string and suffocate themselves. The same with ***any string or window blind pulls***.
- **CLEANING:** All cleaning solutions are toxic. Never spray any cleanser directly at or around an animal.
 - SPOT Cleaning ONLY with the kittens are around. Spray or pour the appropriate cleaning solution onto a paper towel to clean a messy spot and always make sure to wipe it fully dry before the animal comes into contact with it. What is toxic for us is VERY TOXIC to small vulnerable kittens!
 - DISINFECT EMPTY foster room in-between foster sets. All items must be cleaned removing laundry, dishes, emptied litter boxes, toys etc. You may give them to Shannon to disinfect or she can provide instructions. Every surface must then be cleaned. We use Accel Disinfectant as recommended by UC David Shelter Medicine Program. We can provide some with instructions for you!

IMPORTANT! PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND KEEP HANDY

Foster to Monitor & Report to Shannon

(Mandatory Two Week Isolation from other animals (this is for the safety of your own animals!))

- ✓ Weight Gain (should be steady increase, any weight loss is a sign of a problem)
- ✓ Appetite (any change?)
- ✓ Kitty Colds – any goop around eyes or nose? Sneezing, wheezing?
- ✓ Activity Level (any change?) **Lethargy needs immediate & swift attention**
- ✓ Poop (what does it look like and ANY diarrhea?)
- ✓ Vomit (once could be eating too fast, multiple times in a 24 hour period is a problem)
 - **VOMIT AND DIARRHEA together needs and swift immediate attention**
- ✓ Hydration Levels (with neck pinch method, white gums or dry/tacky gums)

First Exam Appointment

Best-case scenario when kittens arrive, we have an exam appointment setup immediately, but timing does not always allow this to happen.

- ✓ Health Exam
- ✓ **Worming Medications**
 - Strondgid (Pyrantal) under six weeks
 - Drontal at 6+ weeks
 - Ponazuril *if needed
 - Fenbendazole *if needed

- ✓ FVRCP – Vaccine if six weeks or older

FRVCP and Rabies Vaccine 1 Year if 4 months or older

Six Weeks Check up (Kittens at 1.5#) Typically done by Shannon

- ✓ Health Check
- ✓ FVRCP Vaccine
- ✓ Drontal Pill

Eight to 10 Weeks+ VET APPOINTMENT (kitten at 2.5+lbs)

- ✓ FVRCP Vaccine Booster (one year if at four+ months)
- ✓ Rabies Vaccine if Four + Months
- ✓ Microchip
- ✓ Spay or Neuter Surgery
- ✓ FIV/FeLV test (if not done earlier)

QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?

Shannon - info@petalumapetpals.org or 707-322-8399 (anytime)

Medical/Health Emergency and are unable to get hold of Shannon:

Animal Hospital of Sebastopol (707-823-3250) 1010 Gravenstein Hwy S, Sebastopol, CA 95472

At worse case scenario – any emergency vet or regular available - please always try Shannon First