

**For after-hours
emergencies
(before 9:30 a.m.
and after 6:30 p.m.,
seven days a
week), call:**
your number here



QUEEN & KITTENS

FEEDING QUEENS

Wet Food

- Offer fresh kitten wet food to queen 2-3 times per day.
 - Offer ½ to one can of kitten wet food at least two times a day. If not eating dry food well, you can offer more wet food while she is nursing. When nursing babies, she can eat as much food as she wants.

Dry Food

- Offer fresh dry kitten food daily; refill as needed throughout the day.
 - Start with ½ cup of kibble, adjust based on how much she is eating.

FEEDING KITTENS

- When nursing kittens reach four weeks of age, they may start eating on their own, so you can offer a small amount to each kitten (start with 1 teaspoon) three times a day to see if they will eat solid food.
 - They may be a little unsure of it at first, so you may need to encourage them to eat by spoon feeding them a small amount, or by gently placing a “starter bite” of wet food into their mouth.
 - You can also add a little bit of warm water to the canned food to make it a gruel consistency to help them get started.
 - As they start eating solid food, you can increase the wet food feedings to four times a day to help with the weaning process.

WEANING

- Queens will need to stay with their kittens until they are at least 4-5 weeks old to be available for nursing, so keep them confined together.
- As the kittens grow and start eating more solid food, you can begin to let the queen have some time away from them. Start with a couple of hours at a time for a few days, and then gradually increase that time away from the kittens.
- You will need to provide an additional space for the queen to be away from the kittens during weaning.
- The kittens should eventually be away from her for at least eight hours at a time. She should gradually work up to spending more time away from the kittens.
- The queen can be scheduled to return to the shelter once the kittens are weaned and are no longer nursing.
- For larger litters, we can help wean them by moving a few kittens to another foster home when they are older and eating well on their own. Please contact your foster team if you would like to set this up.

WEIGHT

- Weigh kittens daily in grams, using gram scale provided. Please weigh kittens around the same time every day for consistency.
 - o Please notify foster staff of weight loss, especially of large weight drops (10 percent of body weight or more) in one day.
- Record daily weight on your foster care **Log Sheet**.

MEDICAL MONITORING

- Monitoring for signs of illness is very important in queens and nursing kittens. Here are some signs to look out for:
- Coughing, sneezing, eye/nasal discharge, lethargy, vomiting, loss of appetite, weight loss or diarrhea.
- Queen specific:
 - o Mammary swelling.
 - o Crusts.
 - o Queen appears to be in pain when kittens are nursing.
- Notify foster staff of any medical concerns the same day you notice the issue.
- For urgent matters contact the emergency number listed at the top of this care form.

ROUTINE TREATMENTS

- Kittens need routine treatments to stay healthy:
 - o Dewormers are due every two weeks.
 - o At five weeks old, the kittens will be due for their first vaccine, feline leukemia testing and microchip.
 - o Booster vaccines will be scheduled every two weeks after the initial vaccines.

SPAY/NEUTER TIME

- The queen can be spayed and placed for adoption once the kittens are completely weaned.
- The kittens will be able to return for surgery/adoption once they are around eight weeks old and weigh at least 850 grams.

