

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



STAGE 3 KITTENS

WEANED KITTENS, OVERNIGHT FEEDINGS

FEEDING

- Please offer kittens wet food and the bottle **every four to five hours during the day, for a total of five times a day.**
 - For example, you can feed at 5 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 2 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m. You can adjust these times a bit to work with your schedule.
- Start by offering a quarter can of the canned food, per kitten, at each feeding – if they eat it all and still seem hungry, it's okay to offer a little more at each feeding.
- To help the kittens eat, you may need to shape the food into a little pile or “mountain.”
- They may be more successful eating the wet food if there is a little bit of warm water or warm formula mixed in, making it a gruel consistency.
- You can also try putting a tiny bit in their mouths or hold the dish up to them so they can eat/smell the food better.
- They may also be more successful if you sit next to them and give them a little extra attention and keep their interest in the food while they are eating.
- At this age, kittens gets distracted easily, and need a little help focusing to make sure they eat their full portions.
- During the assignment, as they eat more and more dry food, it is acceptable to start eliminating one wet food feeding at a time. See the **Stage 7 Care Sheet** for more details.
- The goal is to have them on canned food twice a day by the time they return.

Dry Food

- Leave some dry kibble out for the kittens at all times, as they will nibble on it throughout the day.
- Start by offering a quarter cup dry food and if all that is eaten then you can add a quarter cup more.

STIMULATION

- You may need to stimulate the kittens to urinate and defecate before and after each feeding until they are reliably using the litter box.
- Utilize Kleenex tissues or toilet paper.
- You can also use warm/wet tissues or unscented babies wipes.
- When you notice kittens using the litter box to urinate and defecate you can stop stimulating them.

WEIGHT

- Weigh kittens daily in grams, using gram scale provided. Weigh kittens around the same time every day and prior to eating, for consistency.
 - 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.**

SUCKING

- Orphan kittens sometimes develop a habit of nursing on each other in the absence of their mother. If you notice kittens sucking on each other, separate them immediately. Sucking can cause serious injury, especially to male kittens.
- After kittens are separated, examine each kitten's genital region for swelling.
- Stimulate each kitten to ensure they are able to urinate. If they do not urinate after the next feeding, alert your foster team.
- Clean and dry any soiled kittens to prevent skin irritation from urine and feces.
- You can also ask your foster team about offering the bottle to kittens that develop this behavior.

MEDICAL MONITORING

- Monitoring for signs of illness is very important in young kittens. Here are some signs to look out for:
 - Coughing, sneezing, eye/nasal discharge, lethargy, vomiting, loss of appetite, weight loss or diarrhea.
- 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:
 - Dewormers are due every two weeks.
 - At five weeks old the kittens will be due for first vaccine, feline leukemia testing and microchip.
 - Booster vaccines will be scheduled every two weeks after the initial vaccines.

SPAY/NEUTER TIME

- The kittens will be able to return for surgery/adoption once they are around eight weeks old and weigh at least 850 grams and are totally off the bottle.
- Contact your foster team to schedule a surgery appointment.

