

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



STAGE 2 KITTENS

WEANING KITTEN, BOTTLE 5 TIMES/DAY, 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.
- Offer the kittens canned food prior to the bottle at each feeding in an attempt to get them to eat the wet food first.
- 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.
- After you have offered them the canned food, follow up by offering the bottle at each feeding.
- Mix formula with a ratio of one scoop formula to two scoops warm/hot water, and shake well.
 - Mixed formula can only be refrigerated for up to 24 hours. After 24 hours, discard and make a fresh batch.
- To reheat the bottle, simply place in a cup of hot water until warmed.
- Feed kittens in a flat, upright position, as if they were nursing on mom (tummies to ground).
 - Please do not force feed them formula.
- Test the temperature of the formula on your wrist to make sure that it's not too hot or cold.
- Hold the bottle at a 45-degree angle to make sure there is always formula in the end of the bottle.
 - While on bottle, our target quantity for them is 5 percent of their body weight at each feeding. For example, if they weigh 200 grams, then 10 milliliters of formula would be the target amount.
 - Over eating can cause loose stool.
- As they continue to eat solid food better, and are gaining weight well, their feeding schedule can be changed to a bottle three times a day, with wet food still being given four to five times a day, and dry food left out at all times. See the **Stage 3 Care Sheet** for more details.
 - From there, over time, you can try cutting back on one more bottle feeding at a time, as long as they are eating solid food better and still gaining weight.
- The goal is to have the kittens off the bottle and getting wet food only twice daily by the time they return for surgery, but we will need to do that gradually.

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.
- If you have started to reduce the number of bottles the kittens get daily, you may need to reintroduce the bottle until this behavior lessens.

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:
 - o Dewormers are due every two weeks.
 - o At five weeks old the kittens will be due for first vaccine, feline leukemia testing and microchip.
 - o 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.

