

Kitten Care 0-8 Weeks

Required Items

- Heating Pad
- Carrier
- Warm quiet areas, away from other animals
- Clean towels
- Low sided litter pan
- Pee pad
- Pet bottles and nipples

AGE: 0-2 weeks

1. Keep area clean and warm. Towels are to be changed any time the kittens urinate or defecate upon them. Giving them a stuffed toy often is a comfort, especially if they are a single kitten.
2. Keep them in a quiet area of your home, away from other pets at this time. This is to protect the kitten(s) and your pets from any contagious conditions. Make sure anyone handling the kittens had properly sanitized their hands prior to handling them.
3. They are to be kept on a heating pad on low. Do not put the pad inside of the carrier, instead set the carrier halfway on top of the heating pad. This will prevent overheating or burning of the kittens. This also allows them to escape the heat, if they need to. Constant temperature is very important for kittens. Fluctuations may affect interest in eating, defecation etc.
4. Kittens should be fed every 2 hours a 1:2 solution of KMR (1 scoop powder to 2 scoops warm (not hot!) water. Keep your water source consistent, changing this may cause diarrhea. Kittens should be eating 2 tbs (30ml) per every 4 oz of body weight daily (24hr period) Kittens should go no longer than 6 hours between feedings.
5. After each feeding kittens should be stimulated to urinate and defecate by gently rubbing their genital area with a soft, damp cloth or towel. Dry the area completely once they are through.
6. If kittens are housed together in one carrier, and it appears that they are attempting to nurse on one another they must be separated immediately. Continued irritation of the genitals will cause infection and pain for the kittens.
7. If the general area is irritated or appears to be infected they should be seen by a veterinarian.
8. If your kitten develops diarrhea, it will be important to monitor the consistency and frequency as well as make sure they do not become dehydrated. If your kitten has watery diarrhea beyond a 24 hour period, they will need to be examined by a veterinarian.
9. Eyes will generally open between days 9-14. Keep area clean of mucus or crust once they begin to open. Any discolored discharge will require antibiotics.

AGE 3-4 weeks

1. Continue the formula feedings. You can start to expand the time and frequency to 6 feedings a day.
2. During this time you will notice that they are beginning to urinate and defecate on their own. Once this is the case you can move them to a larger space (small dog crate, play pen etc) and provide a bedding area, and low sided pan with paper towels or puppy pads inside.
3. Again, it is important to keep the area they are in clean. Clean feces and urine ASAP, or they will have it EVERYWHERE.
4. Any sneezing, coughing, eye discharge, are all issues to be addressed by a veterinarian. They will probably need antibiotics.
5. Really begin to handle them at this stage to ensure proper socialization. Still keeping them away from other pets and making certain that anyone handling them has properly washed their hands prior.

AGE: 5-6 weeks

1. Now you can start introducing solids to their diet. They will need to be supplemented with formula at least 2x daily for the next 2 weeks. If you have multiples, feed them separately.
2. Using a small spoon (baby spoons work great!) feed them canned food specific for kittens. You may have to put this in their mouths to introduce the taste for several feedings. They should get the hang of this rather quickly. Once they are eating freely when you present them with food, you can feed them as a group. If they seem uninterested in food, seek out the advice of a veterinarian.
3. **Kittens should start their vaccinations at 6 weeks of age.**
4. Keep the kittens confined in an area where the litter pan is easily accessible.
5. Leave a bowl of water out as well as dry kibble. You will see that they begin to play with it at first, then one day they will be eating it.

It has been determined that all kittens under 6 weeks are to be supplemented with KMR formula. If they are uninterested in nursing, try mixing in a small amount of wet food with formula twice daily. They simply cannot get all the nutrients into their system from the canned food.

AGE: 7-8 weeks

1. During this time they are simply gaining weight and being properly socialized. Formula feedings should be ending as well.
2. If your pets are ok with other animals, allow short supervised visits. This will help with socializing the kittens to other animals.
3. Continue confining in an area where the litter pan can be easily found. **Litter issues are very difficult to correct if not properly trained.** If your kitten is using one area instead of the litter pan provided, place a litter pan in that spot.
4. Kittens should be completely weaned and eating hard kibble at 8 weeks of age.