



Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA

Kitten Packs

These kitten packs are meant to get you *started* on weaning your kitten and to explain the type of care that your kitten needs to survive. This guide is not a replacement for veterinary care and if your kitten displays any concerning symptoms please contact your private veterinarian. Please also note that it will also be your responsibility to purchase any supplies beyond those listed directly below.

Items included in your Kitten Pack:

1. Re-useable 12mL syringe with nipple attached
2. PetAg Nursing kit
3. Liquid KMR OR Powdered KMR (kitten milk replacer) OR Tail Spring liquid milk replacer

Keeping Your Kitten Warm

One of the greatest dangers that young kittens face is that of hypothermia. Young kittens do not yet have the ability to regulate their own body temperature and rely either on the warmth of the mother cat or their surroundings. You will need a heating pad to keep your kitten warm. An electric heating pad should be no higher than the “low” setting and should be placed under the kitten’s bed and covered with a blanket or towel (kittens should never come in direct contact with the heating pad). It’s okay to leave the heating pad on at night, but if kittens are repeatedly moving themselves off the pad it may be a sign it is too warm. Do not leave the kittens on the heating pad for long periods of time without manually checking the temperature to ensure it is not overheating the kittens.

Stimulating

Kittens cannot go to the bathroom on their own until they are about 3-4 weeks of age. You will need to stimulate your kitten to urinate and/or defecate. You will need to do this before or after their meals. Kittens should urinate every time they are stimulated and will have a bowel movement every 1-2 days.

1. Wet a clean cloth or cotton ball with warm water.
2. **Gently** rub their genitalia, mimicking the way their mother would lick them. If your kitten starts to urinate or defecate, continue to stimulate them until they are done. Do not keep rubbing for a long period of time as this will irritate the kitten’s genitalia.
3. Dry any excess water off your kitten.

Feeding

Formula should always be served at room temperature and you will need to syringe or bottle feed your kitten. When using the nipples included in your pack, carefully cut a small “X” on the top of the nipple, enough to let out a small amount of formula at a time. Follow the mixing instructions on the bottle of Pro-Biolac or use the already formulated canned KMR. Both types should be kept refrigerated when not in use and the syringes,

nipples, and bottle should be thoroughly cleaned and dried after feedings. Your kitten should always have access to fresh water.



Pictured: Correct feeding positioning

1. Gather your kitten's feeding supplies and get comfortable. Place a towel or blanket on a table or over your lap.
2. Position the kitten on the towel in an upright position as seen above. If needed, you may scruff the kitten by gently grasping the excess skin behind its neck. This is how mother cats transport their young.
3. Place the tip of the syringe in the kitten's mouth. Slowly depress the plunger of the syringe or lightly squeeze the bottle so that a small amount of the formula mixture is expressed into the kitten's mouth. Wait for the kitten to swallow and repeat. It is very important not to feed your kitten too fast as this can lead to serious respiratory issues. If the kitten is reluctant to eat any more food and has already eaten, they are probably full.

How Much Should My Kitten Eat?

Kittens, just like human babies need to eat frequently. As they get older and grow larger, the time between feedings and the amount they are fed are both increased. Please see the chart below for approximate examples of food portions. Please note that every kitten is different (and may eat differing amounts), but if the kitten is not eating, vomiting, experiencing diarrhea, or losing weight contact a veterinarian.

1 week old	Feed every 2-3 hours	~5mL
2 weeks old	Feed every 4-5 hours	~10mL
3 weeks old	Feed every 6-7 hours	~20mL
4 weeks old	Feed every 8 hours	~30mL

Beyond the Bottle

What is Weaning?

Weaning a kitten is the process of transitioning the kitten from mother's milk to solid food. It's an important part of the kitten's development and needs to be done at the right time and in the right way. Kittens usually can *start* eating on their own after 1 month of age.

If you notice that your kitten is still hungry following their meals and they are around one month of age, they may be ready for solid foods. When kittens are old enough to lap (lick food and water on their own) begin to offer formula in a shallow bowl and slowly mix increasing amounts of wet kitten food in every day until your kitten is eating all wet kitten food. If the kitten does not start lapping on its own, you may also mix wet kitten food and KMR and syringe-feed your kitten the mixture until they can eat on their own. Make sure they also have access to a food bowl in their carrier or enclosure during this process.