Fostering Bottle Kittens

WEEK 0-2
- Kittens 0-2 weeks with no mom will need to be bottle fed every two hours using a kitten formula. Never give cow’s milk to a kitten! Only use formula supplied by NEAS or brands approved by our medical staff.
- Kittens 0-2 weeks should weigh between 4-10 Oz.
- Kittens are born with their eyes and ear canals closed.
- Newborn kittens spend 90% of their time sleeping and 10% eating.
- Kittens without mothers will need to be stimulated to go to the bathroom after each feeding- to do this, use a damp cotton ball or washrag to gently rub the kitten’s anal area. They should urinate at each feeding but may only defecate once a day.
- After about a week, kittens will begin to wiggle around on their own and their eyes will start to open.
- Make sure to clean the kittens with a damp wash cloth after each meal.

WEEK 3-4
- Kittens 3-4 weeks without mothers will still need to be bottle fed using a kitten formula every 5-6 hours.
- Kittens 3-4 weeks should weigh between 12 oz-16 oz.
- The kitten’s eyes should be open and blue.
- Kittens older than 3 weeks should be starting to use the litter box by themselves. Place them into the litter box a few times to ensure they get it- make sure to use a non-clumping litter so they don’t ingest it.

WEEK 4-6
- Kittens 4-6 weeks are weaning and can eat a slurry of kitten wet food and kitten formula. You can also leave some dry food down for them to try.
- Their teeth are erupting and their visibility and motor functions are improving.
- The kittens should be 16 oz-1.25 lbs at this age.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age (weeks)</th>
<th>Body Weight</th>
<th>Total Formula Per Day</th>
<th>Feedings Per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4oz</td>
<td>33cc or 1.1oz</td>
<td>9 to 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>7oz</td>
<td>56cc or 1.9oz</td>
<td>7 to 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>10oz</td>
<td>80cc or 2.6oz</td>
<td>7 to 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>13oz</td>
<td>104cc or 3.5oz</td>
<td>5 to 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>16oz</td>
<td>128cc or 4.3oz</td>
<td>5 to 7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northeast Animal Shelter
foster@neas.org
978-745-9888X327
New Born Kitten Important Information:

- Keep them warm: Young kittens cannot regulate their own temperature. If the kittens are without their mother, keep a heating pad (covered by 2 layers of blankets) accessible to them - you want them to be able to move off the heat source to prevent overheating. Do not use hot water bottles.
- Keep them safe: Keep bottle babies and newborns in a carrier in a quiet, secure place.
- Keep them fed: Feed kittens every 2-4 hours depending on their age.
  o They should eat roughly 30mls of formula/24 hours for every 4 oz of body weight.
  o Check their weight daily. Kittens should gain 1/2oz/day and 4oz/week
  o Kitten Formula should be warmed to 95-100F and checked prior to feeding. Place the bottle in a bowl of hot water or a microwave, if using a microwave make sure to thoroughly mix the bottle.
  o If using KMR powder, mix 1 pt formula to 2 parts water.
  o Never feed a kitten on its back. Kittens should be fed upright with feet toward the ground.
- Keep them clean: Wipe them down with a wash cloth after each feeding. Use a flea comb to remove fleas if needed. Do not ever bathe the kittens with water.

Socializing:

- Kittens should start to be handled very gently after 7-10 days when their eyes begin to open.
- Plan to spend more and more time socializing the kittens as they grow - about 2 to 3 hours a day.
- Use toys like wands and string to bond with kittens over 3-4 weeks of age. Never use your hands as toys.
- Gradually introduce family members and friends, but be careful not to "flood" the kittens with too much.

Concerns- When to Contact Your Foster Coordinator:

Newborn Kittens have weakened immune systems and can be susceptible to getting sick much quicker. Please pay attention to these common signs of distress and contact your Foster Care Coordinator.

- Lethargy
- Not eating
- Weight loss or lack of weight gain
- Eye/nose discharge or sneezing
- Not urinating or trouble stimulating fecal matter in kittens 0-4 weeks old
- Vomiting or diarrhea

*Please contact your Foster Care Coordinator at foster@neas.org with any questions. If an emergency, contact the shelter at 978-745-9888 and ask to speak to any supervisor or manager.