



# Fostering Bottle Kittens

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



Northeast Animal Shelter  
foster@neas.org  
978-745-9888X327

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## 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.



## 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.
  - They should eat roughly 30mls of formula/24 hours for every 4 oz of body weight.
  - Check their weight daily. Kittens should gain 1/2oz/day and 4oz/week
  - 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.
  - If using KMR powder, mix 1 pt formula to 2 parts water.
  - Never feed a kitten on it's 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.**

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

\*Please contact your Foster Care Coordinator at [foster@neas.org](mailto: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.