

The Basics

This information is only a template for how neonatal kittens should be raised, and should only be used as such. Every kitten has different needs and requirements so if you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact your representative or a veterinarian immediately.



★ Supplies

Every good foster parent will need all of the basic supplies. This section will go over everything you will need to get started along with the little things too.

★ General Care

In this section you will learn about the two major steps of caring for a neonatal kitten : feeding time and bathroom breaks! You are the new “mommy” of this kitten so you will need to do everything that a real mom would. And yes, that requires wiping little kitten bums!

★ Illnesses

Since neonatal kittens are so small and delicate, they are susceptible to the many dangers of the world. As their foster parent, it is your job to monitor them as closely as possible and to notify a veterinarian at the earliest sign of sickness.

★ Emotional Attachment

The hardest part of caring for these kittens is loss. By becoming a foster parent you must prepare yourself for some grief, and understand that you can't save them all.

What supplies do I need?

These are a few key items that will make being a midnight foster parent much easier! This list will give you a general idea for a set up but can easily be adjusted accordingly.

Soft sided playpen	Electric kettle
Fleece blankets	Digital scale
Snuggle safe heating pad	Toothbrush
KMR (powder or can)	Towels
Bottle kit	Tissues/cotton pads

How to : Bottle Feed

1. To prepare a bottle you must first cut a hole in the nipple. The hole should be big enough that if you hold it upside down, formula can slowly drop out of it - but not so big that it flows out freely. This may take a couple attempts.
2. Prepare your KMR according to the instructions. You should only make enough milk for a couple feedings at a time as it spoils quickly. Always test the temperature on your wrist before you feed; it should be at a comfortable warm temperature. Refrigerate anything you do not use. If you are feeding pre-made milk, warm it up by placing the bottle in a cup of hot water until it is warm.
3. Lay the kitten in a natural, belly-down position - never, ever on their back. Hold the kitten's head stable with your non-dominant hand. Gently slide the nipple into the kitten's mouth and invert the bottle to start the flow of formula. Do not squeeze the bottle, the kitten should start to nurse naturally. You can tell a kitten is “latched” onto the nipple when their ears wiggle. You can also place a gentle finger on their throat to ensure you can feel them swallowing.

How to : Elimination

1. Before each feeding, stimulate the kitten to use the bathroom. Use a soft, absorbent, disposable cloth (tissues or cotton pads work great). While some people opt to wet the cloth with warm water, this step isn't necessary as long as the cloth is soft.
2. The body position for stimulating kittens can vary. Some people prefer to sit the kitten upright on a table, some prefer to hold them with their bottom facing the floor, and some prefer to turn them on their back. Find the position that works best for you and the kitten.
3. Hold the kitten steady with one hand, and gently rub the genital region in a circular motion with your soft tissue. The kitten should begin to pee. Continue to stimulate the kitten until they are no longer peeing. Depending on the kitten's age, this may take anywhere from 10 to 40 seconds.
4. If the kitten needs to poop, stimulate their bottom the whole time that they are pushing. Stimulating helps encourage them to use their muscles to pass stool, so continue until the kitten has finished their business.
5. Even if the kitten's skin feels dry after peeing or pooping, you still want to wipe them down with a wet cloth or a baby wipe afterwards to keep them clean.

