HELP! I Found Kittens!

If you find kittens outside, this chart will help you make the best decisions to keep the kittens safe and healthy.

START HERE
Are the kittens visibly sick or injured?

YES
Seek medical attention immediately from a local veterinarian or nearest animal shelter. For help identifying local vet clinics and shelters, contact our team at pethelp@seattlehumane.org or 425-649-7566.

NO

DETERMINE THE AGE OF THE KITTENS

0-2 weeks old
Eyes closed or hardly open; Ears folded

2-4 weeks old
Eyes open and alert; Mobile, but wobbly

4-6 weeks old
Mobile and talkative; Eating confidently on their own

6-8 weeks old
Active and playful; Weighs around 1-2 pounds.

8+ weeks old
Active and playful. Weighs over 2 pounds. Approximately the size of a squirrel.

STOP! Are the kittens with the mom cat or in a nest?

YES
Don’t Move the Kittens!
A kitten’s best chance of survival is with mom.
If you want to help, make sure the mom cat has access to shelter, food and water. Work with Seattle Humane or a local trap-neuter-return (TNR) team to have the mom and kittens spayed/neutered after the kittens are eating on their own and are large enough for surgery.

Are You Sure Mom Cat Did Not Return?
The mom cat may be away hunting, and she might be afraid to return to her kittens if humans are around. Watch the kittens for 4-6 hours to see if the mom cat returns.

If the kittens are friendly, ask a veterinarian to examine and spay or neuter the kittens. Remember to spay and neuter the mom and dad to prevent the birth of more unwanted kittens. Then utilize social media and your personal network to find homes where the kittens can be socialized to people.

NO

If you step in, you are assuming the responsibility to provide care and raise the kittens. Seattle Humane can support you by providing supplies, resources, referrals to low-cost veterinary care and rehoming support to help you with this option. Contact our team at pethelp@seattlehumane.org or 425-649-7566.

For information about kitten care and TNR, visit seattlehumane.org/kittens.

Adapted from Jacksonville Humane Society, Animal Care and Protective Services of Jacksonville and First Coast No More Homeless Pets.
How can you tell if the kitten you found needs your help?

The kitten needs your help if...

- Their eyes are crusted shut and/or they have nasal discharge
- Their body appears thin, wet and/or cold
- They have visible wounds or open sores
- Their body is crusted in dirt, urine or feces

The kitten does NOT immediately need your help if...

- They appear clean and dry, and their belly is pink and plump.

If you find a kitten who is visibly sick or injured, seek medical attention immediately from a local veterinarian or nearest animal shelter.

For help identifying local vet clinics and shelters, contact Seattle Humane at pethelp@seattlehumane.org or 425-649-7566.

A kitten who is being cared for by their mom appears clean and dry. Their belly is pink and plump, indicating they are well-fed and warm. This kitten’s mom may still be caring for them. Remember: a kitten’s best chance of survival is with mom. Leave the kittens where you found them.

If you want to help, make sure the mom cat has access to shelter, food and water. Work with Seattle Humane or a local trap-neuter-return (TNR) team to have the mom and kittens spayed/neutered after the kittens are eating on their own and are large enough for surgery.

Contact Seattle Humane at pethelp@seattlehumane.org or 425-649-7566 for assistance.