

# 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](mailto: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.

NO

### 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.

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](mailto:pethelp@seattlehumane.org) or 425-649-7566.

For information about kitten care and TNR, visit [seattlehumane.org/kittens](http://seattlehumane.org/kittens).

# 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*

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](mailto:pethelp@seattlehumane.org) or [425-649-7566](tel:425-649-7566).



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



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

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.

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