

KITTENS & CATS

# FOSTER CARE

GUIDE





# DEAR FOSTER FAMILY,

First and foremost, THANK YOU! You are about to embark on a lifesaving adventure that you'll never forget and become a hero to your foster animal! Our foster program exists to give young animals a chance to grow and to give injured, sick, or under-socialized animals an opportunity to heal. Since the program's inception, our foster families have saved thousands of dogs and cats that would otherwise have been euthanized without this amazing resource.

In this manual, you will find guidance and helpful tips to ensure success for the duration of your foster animal's stay.

## Types of Cats That Need Foster Homes

- Too young to be adopted
- Abused cats that need socialization and love
- Sick, injured or recovering from surgery
- An abandoned mother with a litter
- Any animal when the shelter becomes overcrowded

— HSSC Foster Team



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# ARE YOU A FOSTER CANDIDATE?



## TIME

Are you able to devote the required time daily and weekly to your foster animal?

YES NO

Are you able to bring foster animals to the shelter for vaccinations and wellness exams?

YES NO

Are you able to contact HSSC or bring foster animals to the emergency care facility quickly in an emergency?

YES NO

## Time Commitments & Responsibilities

TYPE OF FOSTER	DURATION OF FOSTER	DAILY COMMITMENT
Kittens with Mom Weaning starts at 4 weeks	2-8 weeks Mom returns to HSSC when kittens are 4 weeks	2-3 hours
Bottle Babies Birth-4 weeks	4-8 weeks	6-8 hours
Weaned Kittens 4-8 weeks	2 weeks-1 month	2-4 hours
Behavior & Medical Cats	1 week-1 month	2-6 hours



## SPACE

Are you able to separate your foster animals from your household pets (If needed)?

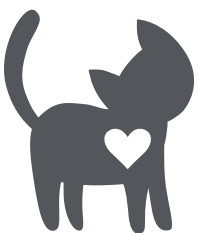
YES NO

Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as washing hands after every encounter and cleaning or disinfecting the cat/kittens, quarters routinely?

YES NO

Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing, and/or furniture) associated with animals?

YES NO



## CARE

Are you prepared to handle sickness or possible death of your foster animal?

YES NO

Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of the foster animal after becoming attached once their foster period is over?

YES NO

Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying an illness that could affect your household animals or family?

YES NO



## TIPS & TAILS

Use glass or metal bowls as plastic bowls are porous and not as easy to clean.

Clean linens and toys daily.

Supervise play time.



## Preparing the Room

Before you bring home your foster(s), make sure that you have a suitable place for them to stay. A bathroom often works well. The room should adhere to the following guidelines:

- A space where temperature can be controlled.
- The space has been disinfected by using a mild bleach solution (1 part bleach to 32 parts water).
- Separate from other household pets.
- Can withstand messes: spilt water or food, vomit, urine, feces, etc.
- No breakable items.
- Electrical outlets and wires are blocked.
- No small items.
- Secured windows (closed or with a secure screen).
- Secured appliances (toilet lids closed).



# GO! ANIMAL CARE GUIDE

## Kitten Development

In the first two weeks of life, kittens are helpless and vulnerable. They are still developing basic reflexes, their hearing and vision are still not fully developed, and they are unable to properly control their body temperatures. They should therefore be confined to a nursery area. Kittens should not be allowed to mingle with your own pets.

During the first 1-3 weeks of life, kittens do not urinate or defecate on their own and require stimulation for elimination. Gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the kitten's genital area and anus. This should be done after feeding.

Keeping the kittens clean from food and feces is vital for his or her health. If you notice your kitten has food, urine, or feces on him or her gently wipe down with a warm damp cloth or baby wipe. Be sure to dry the kitten well afterwards so they do not become chilled.

### TIPS & TAILS

Bathe your foster with Dawn® Dish Detergent Original Formula. Be sure to dry your kitten after their bath using a towel and keep them warm.

Kittens are chewers! Be sure to remove all electrical cords and small objects.





## Kitten Development Chart

WEEKS	FEEDING	DEVELOPMENT
1-2	<p>Bottle feed every 2-3 hours during the day and every 4 hours at night. Feed about 1-2 tbs. per kitten, each feeding.</p> <p><b>Formula: 1 tbs. KMR with 2 tbs. water</b></p>	<p>Eyes open at 8-14 days and they sleep 90% of the time. <b>Must be kept warm</b> with minimal handling. Skin should be pink, and they seldom cry. They cannot potty on their own, so gently rub a warm cotton pad on their genital area and anus after feeding.</p>
3-4	<p>Bottle feed every 3-4 hours, approx. 1 tbs. — 2 tbs. Only one feeding at night. Kittens should be full but not bloated. Kittens might start lapping from a bowl of gruel.</p> <p>Gruel: 3/4 formula with 1/4 wet food</p>	<p>Kittens begin to crawl at 18-21 days. They will begin to play with each other, and you can increase handling. Use a damp cloth to help them clean up and then dry them so they are not chilled. They still must be kept warm and they will be extra messy.</p> <p>Litter box training can begin.</p>
4	<p>Feed 3 tbs. of formula every 6 hours and it's time to add a shallow dish of water. Weaning can begin. See Weaning.</p>	<p>Litter box training starts at 4 weeks.</p> <p>See Litter box Training.</p>
4-6	<p>Feed gruel 4 times a day. Introduce dry food mixed with water. If the kittens do not like their food, some will prefer human baby food. Make sure the baby food contains NO ONION POWDER. Watch to make sure everyone eats.</p>	<p>Kittens can be allowed to explore with supervision. Play with and handle them often, with lots of baby talk. Place them in the litter box after meals and naps. Use only clay litter (NO clumping). They will still need help cleaning up.</p>
6-8	<p>Feed wet food 3 times a day and always keep dry food out. Watch to make sure everyone eats. Experiment mixing wet and dry or change flavors if they resist current choice.</p>	<p>Notice any kittens that still shy away from you—give them special attention—more play, and more handling. This is the best time to achieve socialization.</p>
8+	<p>Feed wet food twice a day and always keep dry food out to free feed. Please, NO TABLE SCRAPS.</p>	<p>Should be close to 2lbs. and ready to be returned to HSSC to be spayed or neutered.</p>





## Neonate Feeding

Never give a neonate kitten anything other than their specified formula! (No cow's milk!)

Kittens less than 3 to 4 weeks old are fed a powdered formula reconstituted into a liquid.

The powder formula (KMR) must be mixed for feedings. It is important to closely follow mixing directions: one part powder to two parts warm water (it can cause diarrhea or constipation if not done correctly). When mixing, do not use a blender. Any reconstituted formula can be refrigerated up to 24 hours. After that point, it must be discarded.

**Kittens must always be kept warm** – never attempt to feed if the kitten is not toasty-warm to the touch. Keep kittens in a carrier with a couple of layers of towels or fleece blankets covering a Snuggle Safe warming disk. These disks have microwave heating instructions on the back and will keep kittens cozy for at least 8 hours.

## Feeding Etiquette

- Only use clean nipples and bottles!
- Kittens will need to bottle feed every 2 to 4 hours, depending on their age.
- Kittens should not be fed on their back or in an upright position.
- Cut an "x" in the tip of the bottle nipple with scissors or a sharp knife. Turn the bottle upside down and allow a drop of formula to come out. Place the bottle nipple into the kitten's mouth and gently move it back and forth, holding the bottle at a 45-degree angle to keep air from getting into kitten's stomach. Usually the kitten will latch on and begin to suckle. Be patient, because this might take several attempts. It is possible to use a syringe without a needle, if all nipple feeding attempts fail.
- Consider watching "The Kitten Lady" on YouTube for excellent tips on bottlefeeding.
- A healthy kitten should not cry excessively, should have a firm but not bloated tummy, and their skin should be pink.
- Until they learn to potty, gently massage a warm cotton pad on their genital area and anus, after feeding, to stimulate elimination.
- After each feeding and elimination, clean kitten with a soft, damp washcloth. Use short grooming strokes like their mother would in order to begin to teach them self-grooming.
- 4 weeks is a good time to introduce kittens to a litter box (see next page).

### TIPS & TAILS

To warm nursing bottles, fill a coffee mug half way with hot water and place the bottle of formula into mug. After a minute or two, test formula by sprinkling a few drops on the back of your hand. Formula should be warm to the touch, but not hot.



## Weaning for Kittens

### **Pee Wees: Four weeks to eight weeks old**

- Weaning is done gradually, beginning at about 4 weeks of age.
- Feed every 4 to 5 hours, but no need for middle of the night feeding.
- Make sure to bottle feed just before you go to sleep and first thing when you wake.
- Start the weaning process by introducing kittens to a thin gruel. Mix formula with a small amount 1 tbs. of wet food to a thin slurpy consistency. They might eat it off your finger to start, or you can put it into their bottle (enlarge nipple opening). Feeding in a shallow dish is best, because they will want to wade in it – yes, expect a mess to start.
- Be patient and never hesitate to supplement with a bottle filled with gruel, until they begin to accept lapping their food out of a dish.
- As they begin to accept eating on their own, gradually thicken the gruel with more wet kitten food. The goal is, by 6 weeks old, to have them eating three meals a day of wet kitten food only.
- Once again, “The Kitten Lady” on YouTube offers some good pointers.
- At about 6 weeks, start to introduce dry kitten food softened with formula or water.
- This is the time to also place a shallow bowl of water (2 inches deep) nearby.
- From 6 to 8 weeks, the goal is to have them eating wet kitten food – not mixed with formula–and dry kitten food (alone or moistened with water). Some kittens appreciate dry food when it is mixed with some wet food.
- Aim to feed wet food twice daily and keep a bowl of dry food down to free feed.
- **PLEASE, no table scraps – ever!**

## Litter Box Training

At 3 to 4 weeks of age, kittens will begin to eliminate on their own. Be sure to use a box with low sides so they can crawl in and out easily. Use only clay litter (non-clumping) and avoid exposure to clumping litter because it is dangerous if ingested.

Most kittens learn about the litter box from their mom, but orphaned kittens will need your help to learn. Place the kittens in the litter box after meals and/or naps and gently take their paw and scratch it in the litter. Lavish them with praise when things go right but expect mistakes. You will still have to help them clean their bottoms because it takes time for them to develop their self-grooming skills. If they defecate outside the box, let them see you pick it up with a tissue and place it into the litter box – a teachable moment. Keeping them in a confined area will also help them remember to use their box.

# NEONATE FEEDING

## Example of Neonate Daily Weight and Feeding Record

NAME/ID	ANIMAL 1	ANIMAL 2	ANIMAL 3	ANIMAL 4	ANIMAL 5	ANIMAL 6
Date						
Weight						
Attitude						
FEEDING 1						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 2						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 3						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 4						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 5						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						
FEEDING 6						
Milk volume						
Stool/urine						

NOTES:

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Normal Stool



Soft Stool



Diarrhea

## Diarrhea

There are three types of stool: normal, soft and diarrhea. Normal stool is firm and has a definite shape. Soft stool is not firm but still has some shape. Diarrhea is liquid, with or without color to it. Diarrhea is common and can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes, stress, overfeeding and other issues.

Diarrhea must be monitored as it can lead to dehydration. If the foster is active, mild diarrhea that occurs for 24 hours is not a concern. Feed the foster less at a time but more often. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 3-4 feedings or contains blood/parasites, call our medical staff at 941.955.4131 x116.

## Parasites

Fosters are dewormed upon intake and at every recheck. Parasites are commonly found in the stool of kittens. Tapeworms may look like grains of rice. Roundworms look like spaghetti and can be seen in the litter box or in vomit. If you notice worms, call our medical staff at 941.955.4131 x116 to schedule a recheck.

## Vomiting

Vomiting is not serious unless it happens continuously or accompanied with diarrhea. It can lead to dehydration. If vomiting occurs 2-3 times in a row, call our medical staff at 941.955.4131 x116.

## Eye Discharge

It is normal for animals to have little pieces of crust in their eyes after waking up. If you see continuous yellow or green discharge, swollen or closed eyes call our medical staff at 941.955.4131 x116. You can use a warm, damp towel to wipe the affected eye(s).



## Ear Mites

Ear mites are parasites that live in the ear canal. You may notice a bald spot behind their ears due to continuous scratching. They may also violently shake their head. The ears may smell bad and you may see brown discharge that resembles coffee grounds. Ear mites are contagious to other animals and need to be treated. Call our medical staff at 941.955.4131 x116 if you notice any of these symptoms.



Ear Mites

## Fleas

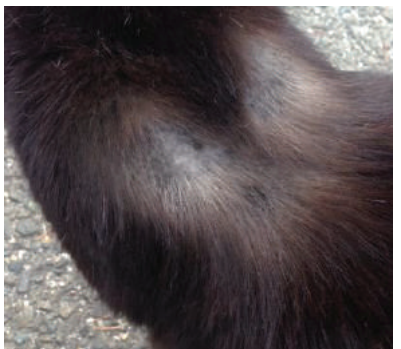
Animals that have fleas will scratch themselves often. Topical oral flea prevention are given to fosters over 4 weeks of age. Flea prevention for kittens under 4 weeks includes daily brushings with the flea comb and daily bed changes. If you still notice signs of fleas, you can wash the kitten in a small amount of Dawn® dish soap followed by using a flea comb to remove any remaining fleas. Be sure sure to thoroughly dry him/her following a bath. Baths should not be given more than once every 1-2 weeks. If you still notice signs of fleas, call our medical staff at 941.955.4131 x116 to schedule a recheck.



Ringworm

## Ringworm

Ringworm is a contagious fungus that that can spread to other animals and humans. A sign of ringworm is thinning hair or patches of hair loss. Ringworm is difficult to remove from your house. To help with prevention and spreading maintain cleaning protocols and a good hand washing routine. Call our medical staff if you notice any hair loss, 941.955.4131 x116.



Mange

## Mange

Mange is caused by parasites that infect the skin of animals. Some forms of mange are contagious to other animals and humans. The symptoms include itching, hair loss and sores. If you notice these symptoms, call our medical staff for treatment, 941.955.4131 x116.





## Upper Respiratory Tract Infection (URI)

URIs are common and are caused by contagious viruses and bacteria.

Signs to look for:

- Sneezing and discharge from eyes/nose
- Congested breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy (lack of energy)
- Dehydration

If you notice any of these signs, please contact our medical staff at 941.955.4131 x116 to schedule a recheck.





# MAINTAINING FOSTER HEALTH

## Common Illnesses in Cats and Kittens

**Panleukopenia** (Feline Distemper) This viral infection mostly affects kittens and young cats and is almost always fatal. The virus can survive in the environment for up to a year, which means unvaccinated cats can become infected simply by encountering an area where an infected cat has been. The vaccine is considered very effective.

- Symptoms: fever, diarrhea, loss of appetite, and vomiting
- Transmission: very contagious to other cats

**Calicivirus** This virus attacks the lungs and lower respiratory tract, usually causing pneumonia. Ulcers are often seen on the mouth and tongue, making eating painful. The vaccine for Calicivirus is very effective.

- Symptoms: oral ulcers, loss of appetite, runny eyes and nose
- Treatment: veterinary care and antibiotics
- Transmission: very contagious to other cats

**Rhinotracheitis** is another upper respiratory infection that often affects cats with Calicivirus. The vaccine is considered very effective.

**Chlamydia** is also called pneumonitis and attacks the respiratory tract, producing conjunctivitis. Chlamydia is a bacterial infection and the vaccine is considered very effective.

- Symptoms: red, irritated eyes, nasal discharge, fever, and loss of appetite
- Treatment: veterinary care and antibiotics
- Transmission: very contagious to other cats





## Distemper

Distemper is a highly contagious and fatal disease that attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems. It is transmitted through direct contact with contaminated saliva, blood, or urine.

Signs to look for:

- Severe Upper Respiratory Infection or Pneumonia
- Lethargy
- Neurological signs such as seizure activity, convulsions, and partial or complete paralysis

## Fading Kittens

Occasionally, a kitten that appeared healthy will suddenly stop thriving. They will stop growing, socializing and crawling. They will begin to lose weight and may cry continuously. When this happens, they fade quickly and, even with medical intervention, may not survive 48 hours.

There is not an understood cause for this condition. Occasionally, kittens die in foster care. If this should occur please use our emergency phone number, 941.955.4131, press #5 and follow prompts during clinic's business hours. If after business hours please call 941.955.4131 and press #2 and follow the prompts.





## TIPS & TAILS

Questions about your foster's veterinary care? Call 941.955.4131 x116 during business hours and 941.955.4131 press #5 and follow the prompts for after-hours emergency care.

## Routine Veterinary Care

Routine veterinary care is provided by the veterinarians at the Animal Clinic of the Humane Society of Sarasota County during normal business hours. We will work directly with the shelter veterinarians to manage the health and wellbeing of each foster pet or litter.

After-hours, in the event of an emergency use the emergency number to be connected directly to one of our veterinarians, 941.955.4131, press #5 and follow the prompts.

The Humane Society of Sarasota County has a policy that we will not reimburse individuals for expenses for foster animals when taken for veterinary care outside of that which is preauthorized by the Humane Society of Sarasota County staff.



## Scheduling Rechecks

Foster animal(s) are required to return to the shelter every few weeks for vaccinations, deworming and general exams. You will receive reminders by phone or email. All rechecks require an appointment made at the time of pickup.

If for any reason you are unable to keep your scheduled appointment please contact 941.955.4131 x116 to reschedule.

## Vaccines

Kittens receive vaccinations every 3 weeks from the time they are 6 weeks of age until they are 16 weeks or unless otherwise directed by our veterinarians. Animals 16 weeks and older receive a Rabies vaccine.

Cats & kittens receive FVRCP Vaccine (feline viral rhinotracheitis, calicivirus and panleukopenia).







## The Day of Surgery

- Adult cats –  
no food after midnight  
the night before surgery  
but may have water
- Kittens – feed a small  
breakfast (1-2tbs. of  
canned food) and  
offer water
- All pets should receive  
fresh water at all times,  
even the morning of  
surgery
- Surgery drop-off days  
and times will be  
scheduled

## Spay/Neuter Surgery

During a scheduled visit, we may decide to accept the pet or litter back for adoption. If this is the case, surgery may be scheduled that same day or scheduled for a later day.

If scheduled for a later day, you will continue foster care and bring the pet in on the morning of the scheduled surgery. Veterinarians use the following guidelines to determine when the foster animal is ready to be returned for surgery:

- Are the kittens old enough or did they gain enough weight for surgery?
- Are they successfully weaned from their mother?
- Have they been successfully socialized?
- Is your foster healthy and recovered fully from the illness or injury?
- Is there room on the adoption floor?



# FOSTERING ADULT CATS

## Behavior Guide

Some cats find shelter life so challenging that they retreat and resist contact with humans as well as other cats. It is common for cats entering a foster environment to experience a period of adjustment that can last for several weeks and some will also exhibit behavioral issues. Foster homes are in a unique position to increase the “adoptability” of their foster cats by providing a positive, predictable home experience.

## The First Few Days Or Weeks

- Enter your foster cat’s room calmly and quietly and say the cat’s name frequently while you try to establish positive contact.
- Sitting on the floor will help put them at ease because you are more on their level.
- Limit eye contact because staring can be interpreted as aggression.
- Leave the radio or TV on when you are not around.
- Let your foster cat decide how soon to walk over and make friends. If that doesn’t happen, try coaxing out of hiding with treats and/or toys, but take it slow and easy.
- If your foster cat is treat motivated, don’t hesitate to offer a bribe to come out of hiding and always reward with praise and a head scratch if she will allow.
- Once you can touch, begin with gentle head scratches and avoid long body strokes until you are completely comfortable that your foster cat is ready for more intimate cuddling.
- It is not uncommon for cats to suddenly bite or swipe while being petted. This state of overstimulation can come with little warning, but always notice tail twitching, ears angled back and staring at your hand as a possible prelude. Please remember that any kind of physical punishment will only make matters worse and it’s best to stop petting and let the cat go her own way.
- Often, you can best begin to establish a trusting relationship by being observant of cues and letting your foster cat set the pace and duration of love sessions.

## Playtime is the best time

- Make sure you have one or two wand toys to encourage interactive play sessions.
- Every cat has play habits and preferences, so observe what gets her motor running and do at least three sessions a day.
- Be careful never to play rough with your foster cat and do not use your hand as a toy.
- It can be useful to have an evening playtime in order to experience a peaceful sleep for all.
- Catnip toys can be fun to kick, carry and roll on (not all cats respond to catnip).
- Use wand toys (pole/string/feathers or mouse) when you are holding the other end, and never leave the toy when you exit, as it can present a choke hazard.
- Try to provide a variety of toys to chase, “kill”, rabbit-kick, and cuddle and rotate them so they don’t become too familiar.





## Helping the Fearful Cat

- Signs of fear include hissing, growling, hiding, swatting, large pupils, freezing in place and loss of bladder or bowel control outside the litter box.
- Provide a bed or corner where she can hide and feel safe.
- Make sure she has easy access to food, water and litter box from her hiding place.
- Keep your foster cat's routine as regular as possible; they are great creatures of habit.
- Scoop the litter box at least once daily and change food and water daily to be sure of intake.
- Coaxing your foster cat into play can break the ice and lead the way to cuddle sessions.

Litter box issues – cats don't eliminate outside their box because they are mad or trying to get revenge.

- Since your foster cat is confined to a room, they should not have difficulty locating the box.
- If the cat has been using the litter box and suddenly begins to go elsewhere:
  - There could be a medical reason, such as urinary tract infection (UTI).
  - A preference for a litter, or box style, or different location.
- Don't ever punish your foster cat for eliminating outside the litter box. If you find an "accident" just clean it up, because taking her to the spot and scolding her will only make her fearful of you.

Call Suzanne Jones, Feline Specialist at HSSC for advice 941.955.4131 x107.

REASON	WHY	DO
Litter box in an undesirable place  Doesn't like litter smell	It's not clean enough  Medical issues	Scoop several times a day, particularly fecal matter and top off daily with a small amount of fresh litter.  After the medical condition has been addressed, if the problem continues, add a second litter box with a different litter or try unscented.  Sometimes, a stubborn litter box issue can be helped by using a litter called Cat Attract – call HSSC to discuss if other attempts fail.
Surface preferences	Does like the course texture  Prefers slick surfaces	Try a wheat or soy-based litter because it is softer underfoot.  Use a large box with litter at one end and leave the other end bare.
Location preferences	She goes in quiet protected areas like a closet	Move the box to where she is going and after a month, begin to gradually move it to a more convenient location.



## Destructive Behavior – Scratching

- Have a vertical scratcher and a horizontal scratcher (corrugated box) placed apart from each other.
- If your foster cat attempts to scratch on furniture, move a scratcher near the furniture being targeted to divert them and try to match the texture of the approved scratcher with the texture the cat has chosen.
- Consider covering the inappropriate object of their scratching with something unappealing like heavy duty foil, double-sided carpet tape or plastic carpet runner (pointy side exposed). This should encourage your foster cat to choose the nearby scratching post or box scratcher.
- Please refrain from using squirt water bottles as the cat won't associate the natural behavior of scratching with the punishment of getting hit with a water stream.

## Separation Anxiety

- Signs of possible separation anxiety include: vocalizing after you leave the room, not eating when left alone, excessive grooming to the point of creating bald spots, and inappropriate urination or defecation.
- Leaving a distracting toy can be helpful – puzzle toys that spill treats when rolled around.
- A comfortable perch near a window is good.
- Leaving a radio or TV on softly can be comforting.
- A favorite action toy like the ball that spins around a circle track can be brought out just before you leave and picked up when you return.





# HEALTH CHEAT SHEET

## Emergency vs Non-Emergency Symptoms

NON-EMERGENCIES	EMERGENCIES
Report & Monitor First If worsens: Call 941.955.4131 x116 NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER	Require Immediate Veterinary Attention Business Hours: 941.955.4131 Press #5 After Hours: 941.955.4131 Press #2
Diarrhea or loose stools—might be tinged with blood	Continuous diarrhea for more than 24 hours, with or without blood in stool. Straining in the litter box, meowing more than usual
Lethargy (lack of energy) and poor appetite	Loss of appetite—not eating for more than 8 hours
No bowel movement for 24 hours	Vomiting 2 or 3 times in 24 hours
Coughing/sneezing/mild congestion weepy or swollen eyes	Difficulty breathing, significant congestion—blowing snot bubbles
Limping or sleeping more than usual	Any trauma causing kitten to bleed, stagger, or not be able to stand
Excessive scratching or dull, dry flaky coat	Trauma and any trauma resulting in bloody discharge from nose, ears, or mouth

- HSSC will provide the appropriate food, including prescription food and any necessary supplements.
- Keeping a bowl of dry food available (free feeding) at all times is the norm. Feeding a small amount of wet food daily, as a treat, is also a good idea. Staying nearby while they feed can help with bonding. Any specific food requirements will be discussed at the time you pick up your foster cat.
- Utilize treats to get to know your foster cat and as a reward for interaction.

### Poisonous foods for cats:

- Onions, garlic and all root vegetables, raw potatoes and green tomatoes.
- Chocolate, grapes, raisins, and milk (most cats are lactose intolerant).

Non-Emergencies  
Monday: 8am–3pm  
Tuesday-Friday: 8am–6pm  
Saturday: 8am–4pm  
Call 941.955.4131 x116

Emergencies During Business Hours  
Monday-Friday: 8am–5pm  
Saturday: 8am–Noon  
Call 941.955.4131, press #5 and follow the prompts

Emergencies After Hours  
Call 941.955.4131, press #2 and follow the prompts

Under no circumstances may anyone other than HSSC's Medical Director give the foster volunteer medical advice. All veterinary care is provided by HSSC. Fosters will not be reimbursed for any vet care unless it is preapproved by HSSC's Medical Director.

#### Foster Hours and Calendar

Please fill out the foster hour log using the appropriate hours per day and return it to HSSC when you return with your foster animal.

#### Fostering Hours

Mom and Kittens—2-3 hours per day  
Bottle Fed Kittens—6-8 hours per day  
Underage/Weaned Kittens—2-4 hours per day  
Behavior and Medical Cats—2-6 hours per day



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rescue.  
adopt.  
love.



FOSTER CARE 941.955.4131 x116

SHELTER 941.955.4131

