You found kittens. Now what?

Are the kittens sick or injured?

**YES**: Take the kittens to a veterinarian immediately.

**NO**: Is the mother cat taking care of the kittens? The best place for a kitten is under the care of their mom. There are nutrients in the mother’s milk that we cannot replicate that help them to build a strong immune system. Observe the kittens from a distance for several hours. Make absolutely sure that the mom is not around as she will leave her kittens for hours at a time. She will hide from you and only come out when she thinks that you are gone. Next, estimate the age of the kittens:

- **1-2 weeks old**: Ears folded, eyes closed or just beginning to open.
- **2-4 weeks old**: Ears uncurled, eyes open, taking first wobbly steps.
- **4-6 weeks old**: Playing with littermates, talkative, can eat food.
- **6-8 weeks old**: Weighs 1-2 pounds, very active, eating solids.
- **8+ weeks old**: Weighs 2 lbs or more, behaviors of an adult cat.

If mom **IS NOT** around, kittens under 6 weeks of age will need to be bottle fed. If you are willing to foster the kittens yourself, that’s great! We can help you do that. If you cannot, you can request that the kittens be fostered through OHS if available.

If mom **IS** around, you have two options:

**Option 1**: Notify OHS that you have kittens. We can advise if trapping is necessary. Sometimes it’s better to trap and foster both mom and kittens until the kittens can be weaned around 6 weeks old. Mom can be spayed and released once the kittens have been weaned. You may continue to foster the kittens until ready for spay/neuter or the OHS Foster Kitten program may provide fostering if available.

**Option 2**: If there is no obvious danger to the kittens, leave the kittens alone until they can be weaned and separated from mom around 5-6 weeks old. It is important to socialize the kittens from a young age so that they can be adopted, but staying with mom until weaned is also important.

The priority is making sure the kittens and mom get spayed/neutered!

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