

You found kittens. Now what?



OHS is available to discuss care options and resources. Call 510-792-4587 or email info@ohlonehumanesociety.org

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:



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.

Kittens are usually weaned and able to be separated from mom by 6 weeks old. Call OHS for advice on next steps. If you are willing to foster the kittens yourself, that's great! OHS can help you do that. If you cannot, you can request that the kittens be fostered through OHS if space is available.

Kittens older than 8 weeks are old enough to be spayed/neutered. If they are friendly, they may be adoptable, otherwise they will be returned after the procedure. Go to our website to find out more information about our spay/neuter vouchers and our TNR services if you need trapping assistance.

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

www.ohlonehumanesociety.org

