WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND KITTENS

ARE THE KITTENS VISIBLY SICK OR INJURED?

YES: Take the kittens to a veterinary clinic immediately.

NO: Estimate the kittens' age by what they look like.

Eyes still closed or just beginning to open:
1–2 WEEKS OLD

Eyes open and alert, becoming mobile:
2–4 WEEKS OLD

Very mobile and often talkative, can eat food:
4–6 WEEKS OLD

Very active and playful, weighs 1–2 lbs.:
6–8 WEEKS OLD

Very active and playful, weighs 2 lbs. or more:
8+ WEEKS OLD

CAN YOU SEE THE NEST OR HIDING SPOT?

Avoid handling the kittens and watch them from a distance to see if the mama cat returns to care for them. If she does, leave the kittens with her, since it greatly increases their chances of survival.

WHAT IF THE MAMA CAT DOESN'T RETURN AFTER SIX OR MORE HOURS?

Take action by doing one of the following:

TAKE ACTION

1. **Care for the kittens.** Take the kittens to your local vet for a check-up and vaccines. Or foster the kittens through your local shelter's foster program.
2. **If you can't care for the kittens yourself, find someone who can.** Ask your family, friends and neighbors.

   When the kittens you've cared for reach eight weeks old, they're ready to be spayed or neutered, micro-chipped and adopted.
3. **Can't care for the kittens or find someone who can?** Ask your local shelter for assistance.

TAKING NEWBORN KITTENS TO YOUR LOCAL SHELTER SHOULD BE A LAST RESORT.

Many animal shelters are unable to provide the around-the-clock care that kittens need. In fact, at many shelters (without the help of foster homes), newborn kittens are at risk of being killed within 24 hours of arriving. The best thing to do for kittens under four weeks of age is to leave them with the mama cat until they are eating on their own, and then contact your local shelter for spay/neuter resources.

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