KITTENS THAT NEED HELP

This guide refers to kittens 4 weeks of age and younger, when care with mom offers them the BEST chance of survival. Kittens that fit the descriptions below are possibly abandoned and need help from humans.

COLD

Young kittens cannot regulate their own body temperature and rely on their mom, siblings, and nesting material to keep them warm. They may lose some heat when mom is not with them. Unless they ALSO fit any of the other descriptions below, leave them and check again in 2-5 hours to see if their mom has returned.

DIRTY

A good mama cat keeps her babies meticulously clean. Kittens that need your help may have dirt, feces, or crusted urine on their bodies. They may also be wet. Their genital areas may be red and inflamed, indicating urine scalding.

THIN

Kittens with a mom should be eating frequently. Their bellies will typically have a full, rounded appearance. Sunken bellies, visible bones, and pale skin can indicate that the kittens need help and aren't being fed.

NOISY

Orphaned and hungry kittens will cry loudly, but loud kittens alone do not indicate that they are orphaned. Mom does not stay with the kittens all day long and might be on her way back. She might even be watching you in the shadows, waiting for YOU to leave her babies alone. Leave these kittens alone for 2-5 hours, then check on them again. If they are quiet when you return, it means that mom has probably been back to care for them, and you should let her keep up the good work.

SICK/ HURT

Sick kittens might have discharge from the eyes and nose. Their eyes may be crusted shut and may have wounds or open sores.

These kittens don't need your help.

These kittens are clean, quiet, dry, and plump with full bellies with light pink coloring, showing that they are warm.

THESE KITTENS NEED YOUR HELP!

This kitten is noisy, dirty, and sick. It has nasal discharge and crusted-shut eye.

This kitten is thin. You can see their backbones.

This kitten has discharge from the eyes.

DON'T TOUCH!

CALL

Alachua County Animal Resources - (352) 264-6870
Operation Catnip of Gainesville - (352) 380-0940
Humane Society of North Central Florida - (352) 373-5855