

HAYWARD ANIMAL SERVICES



FOSTER PROGRAM

Hayward Animal Services
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Hayward Animal Services Thanks YOU

Thank you for opening your home and your heart to a kitten or cat in need. Whether you foster a kitten who needs some time to grow, or an adult cat who needs a little extra TLC, you make it possible for us to provide the very best care possible for all of our residents at The Hayward Animal Shelter. Fostering is messy, rewarding, stinky, adorable, and sometimes a heartbreaking job. We certainly could not provide the level of care we do without valuable foster homes like yours.



From all our cats and kittens:

Thank You!

Greetings, Foster Parents!

Thank you for participating in the Hayward Animal Services Foster Care Program. We appreciate your willingness to open your heart and home to homeless mother cats and kittens. Your dedication allows our organization to rescue cats we would otherwise have to turn away due to limited space in our shelter.

The guiding mission of the Kitten Foster Care Program is to give mother cats and kittens the individualized care, and socialization they need to prepare them for adoption. Information gathered during the foster process helps us place cats and kittens in homes and with families who can best meet their needs. Specific goals of the program include:

- Providing a safe, healthy, nurturing environment for mother cats to raise their kittens.
- Socializing shy or timid cats, and kittens.
- Allowing mother cats to recover in a relaxing, uplifting environment.
- Provide temporary care for underage kittens while waiting for transfer to a rescue or adoption

This manual outlines the responsibilities and expectations of our foster volunteers. This should serve as a resource throughout your foster care experience.

Before taking your assigned foster cats/kittens home, please:

- Review the overview of key responsibilities and policies
- Complete a foster family information sheet
- Read and sign the foster care agreement
- Give the completed Foster Family Information Sheet and the signed Foster Care Agreement to the Foster Coordinator. If the Foster Coordinator is not available, give the forms to a Hayward Animal Services staff person.

Overview of Key Responsibilities and Policies

To ensure a successful foster program, we ask that you follow our general policy guidelines to ensure that each foster home is responsibly providing a wonderful home for these kittens to grow up and explore the world in. To this effect, you will want to keep in mind the following:

1. Keep cats/kittens inside at all times.
2. Cats/kittens should be in a carrier at all times when leaving the house.
3. Keep doors/windows closed at all times, unless covered with a screen that is securely in place. The window should only be open no more than 1 inch with a support in place so the window cannot be opened any further. A frightened cat/kitten can escape through the tiniest holes!
4. If a cat/kitten does manage to get outside, you must attempt to get the cat/kitten back inside immediately. If you delay, the cat/kitten may get frightened and run away, decreasing your chances of getting the kitty back inside. Do not chase the cat/kitten as this may make him/her run further away from your home. The easiest way to get your mother cat back to your home is to put her kittens in a secure carrier by the door or window that she went out. The kittens should cry for her, and her maternal instincts will kick in bringing her back to them. Often mother cats will come back in to the house or foster room to be with the kittens. If this is not working, you can also place her litter box outside your door so she will smell where she needs to come back in. Most mother cats were strays and are familiar with being outside, but that does not mean that they all have 'street smarts'. Some will hide and be scared as soon as they get out. Look under bushes, decks, foundations, etc. If the mother cat is injured, she may be silently hiding as to not attract predators. *If you cannot get the kitty yourself within 1-2 hours, call your mentor to determine a strategy to recapture the kitty Hayward Animal Shelter has humane traps available for this purpose.*
5. When fostering a cat who tested positive for FIV (Feline Infectious Virus) the cat must remain segregated from the other animals in your home for the duration of the stay.
6. When fostering a mother cat who has not tested positive for FeLV or FIV, it is important to keep her and kittens separated from your other animals for at least two weeks to ensure they are healthy. A seemingly fine cat can become ill due to stress from a move. Foster kittens must not be introduced to your resident cats unless your resident cats are indoor only cats. Kittens must be vaccinated for more than 5 days before they can meet any of your household pets and these visits should be limited and supervised. Food dishes, water bowls, and litter boxes must be picked up so they do not use each other's boxes or bowls, or they should meet in an area where litter boxes and food/water dishes are not present

Kitty-Proofing Your Foster Room and Home

Cat-proofing and especially kitten-proofing your home is much the same as child-proofing it! That means hiding or removing cords, removing small items that kittens can choke on, etc.

To begin, your foster room should be COMPLETELY cleared out and only consist of basic cat necessities (i.e bed, food, water, litterbox, and toys). This means removing all toiletries and decorative items from the bathtub, counters, or any other surface the kittens can access. Kittens love to play with anything they can get their paws on and could be injured by heavy or sharp items.

Make sure to put your baby bag in a separate room. Please do not leave it out for your foster kittens to get into as the items inside can be very dangerous to them.

Once your kittens are vaccinated and clear of any illness, you may decide to have them visit other areas of your home or interact with your resident pets. These visits should be short and well supervised. DO NOT give the kittens free reign of your home unsupervised. They can get injured, lost, have accidents outside the litter box, etc.

Before introducing your kittens to other areas of your home, please do a thorough walkthrough, and keep the following concerns in mind:

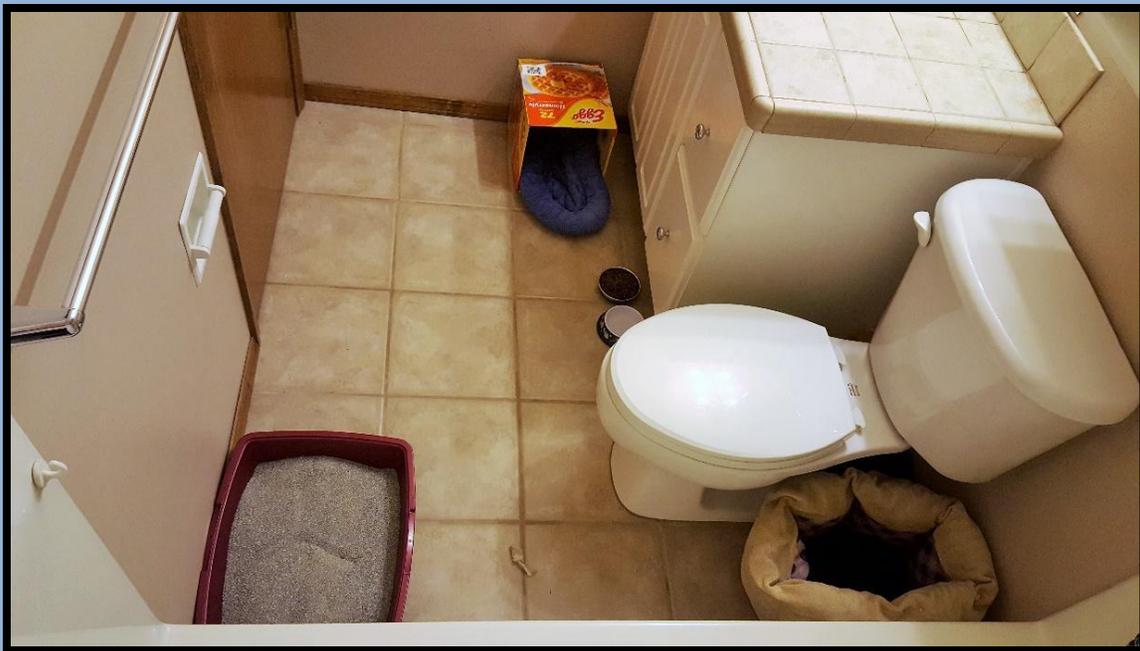
- Kittens might chew on electrical cords resulting in burns or even death. Protect your electrical cords with plastic tubing or by spraying them with “Bitter Apple”, a bitter tasting deterrent that you can find at pet stores.
- Kittens can choke on small items. Keep rubber bands, paper clips, needles, – anything kitty can swallow – out of reach.
- Keep plastic bags, which can cause suffocation, out of reach.
- Secure any heavy items that could fall and potentially injure them.
- Refrain from using any hot appliances while the kittens are out. Kittens are naturally curious and could get burned.
- Review the toxic houseplant list at www.asPCA.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants and remove all poisonous plants from your household. Or, to deter kitties from munching on poisonous and non-poisonous plants, you should spray the plants with a product sold at pet stores for this very purpose.

Housing

You must provide a clean, safe environment for your foster cats/kittens. Hayward Animal Shelter recommends that you use a spare bedroom or bathroom as your foster room. A bathroom works best for easy cleaning between litters.

If you are fostering a pregnant cat or young kittens, keep the following tips in mind:

- Consider protecting your furniture and carpet with sheets or plastic table covers. Kittens can be messy, especially when they're learning to use the litter box! Make sure sheets/ covers are securely tacked down so kittens can't get under them.
- Until the age of 3-4 weeks, the mother cat will clean the genitals of her young to stimulate the bowels and bladder. As the kittens start showing interest in the litter box, provide them with an easily accessible box – such as a shoebox lid, cookie sheet, or cake pan. Once the kittens are more mobile, you should give them a larger litter box. Dollar stores have lots of inexpensive options.



The Hayward Animal Shelter will provide the temporary use of a pop up kennel if needed.

Litter Box

Kittens should be introduced to the litter box when they start eating solid foods. They need a box with shallow sides: a cookie sheet or cake pan is perfect. After they have eaten, place them in the box. They will learn how to use the litter box very quickly. Sometimes they learn how to use the litter box without any help from us, as they have been watching Mom use her box.

Observe how the kittens watch all of Mom's actions: they find her quite fascinating and are learning how to act like cats by observing her.

Orphans may need a little more assistance from you. Simply pick them up and place them on the litter after each meal. When you bring home your foster kittens, show them where you placed their litter box. Keeping the box clean is very important...daily cleaning is a must. Hayward Animal Shelter recommends cleaning the litter box at least two or three times a day. No cat or kitten wants to use or smell a dirty litter box. Make sure the litter box is as far away from the food and water as possible. Place the bed near the food, not the litter box.

When first learning to use a litter box, kittens do best with store-bought recycled paper litter or clay litter. Once the kittens are older (around 8 weeks old) you can give them clumping litter. Please do not use clumping litter with kittens under 8 weeks.



Clumping litter for older kittens



Recycled paper litter for younger kittens

Expenses and Donations

Hayward Animal Services covers all medical care expenses for foster cats if performed at approved veterinary clinics and approved in advance. Hayward Animal Shelter will not reimburse any personal expenses incurred by foster parents for unauthorized veterinary care; seeking veterinary care for your foster cat or kittens at a clinic other than an approved Vet hospital is not permitted without explicit Hayward Animal Services Supervisor approval.

Items to keep track of:

- Food
- Food/water bowls
- Litter
- Litter box
- Toys
- Scratchers/scratch trees
- Mileage to and from the shelter or adoption events

Expenses that you incur during your term as foster parent, whether for supplies or medical care, cannot be applied to an adoption fee. These expenses, however, may be considered a tax-deductible donation.



Always consult a tax professional to determine whether your foster expenses are tax-deductible.

Socializing Your Foster Cats and Kittens

First and foremost, we ask that you treat your foster cats/kittens with the same love and care that you give to your own companion animals. Daily attention (at least one full hour a day) from you and other family members or friends makes them more people-oriented, and more adoptable. This includes petting, playing, cuddling, trimming nails, and grooming.

By spending time with your foster cats on a regular basis, you will not only increase their chances of being adopted quickly, but you will also be able to determine their likes and dislikes – this helps us place them in homes with families that best meet their needs.

You should also monitor your foster cats for behavior problems, such as inappropriate urination or scratching furniture. If problems arise, contact your mentor to discuss behavior modification strategies. Hayward Animal Shelter is not responsible for damages that might occur to yourself, others in your household, or your personal property as a result of feline behavior problems while in foster care.

Special Care

Semi-feral kittens are a special challenge. These kittens can be socialized, but only with daily handling. Sometimes they will hiss and spit when you attempt to pick them up. Gently pick them up and hold them close to your body, giving them a sense of security. Speak softly as you pet them. These kittens need plenty of reassurance and attention. **DO NOT give them a room in which they can hide from you.** They need a box or crate in which to feel secure but you must have access to them at all times. They will not become socialized unless they are handled many times each day. They need to become accustomed to the sights and sound of people and a working home. This should be done gradually but consistently.

brought to the Hayward Animal Shelter without their mother. As a foster parent you will have the double responsibility of bottle-feeding and socialization.

Bottle Feeding

When to bottle feed a kitten:

If we receive a kitten that is too young to eat on their own, has been abandoned, refuses to eat, or if the mother cat is no longer nursing her kittens, or her milk has dried up, we then need to bottle feed the kitten. A mother cat's milk can dry up when mother cats are sick, on medications, or too stressed. (Please make sure that mom cat is getting proper care). Supplemental bottle feeding can also be helpful when a kitten loses weight or fails to gain

If you have "cat-friendly" dogs in your household, please consult with your coordinator about proper introductions with your foster cats/kittens. Felines who have been raised with dogs, and adult cats who enjoy (or at least tolerate) the company of canines, often have an advantage on adoption days!

Feeding and Growth

Kittens with Mom:

The recommended diet for pregnant or nursing cats and their kittens is a premium diet of canned and dry kitten food. Kittens generally start showing interest in "real" food around 4 or 5 weeks of age. Canned food should be fed 3-4 times a day in small amounts (one quarter of a 3 oz. wet food can). Dry food should be left out all day for them.

Kittens without Mom:

Newborn to four weeks: unweaned kittens are



Note: If you think your kittens need to be bottle fed or supplementally fed and you have not been trained on bottle feeding please contact your coordinator for proper training. Do not attempt to bottle feed before being properly training!

weight for a 7 day period, even if it is still nursing on mom. In this case, you will only be "topping off" the kitten after it nurses.

Foster parents will need the following supplies for bottle feeding:

- Snuggle Safe disc or other device designed for animals
- Cat carrier or cardboard box for kitten nest
- Fleece blankets, cloth diapers, etc. for bedding
- Milk replacer formula (in baby bag)
- Nursing bottle with nipples (in baby bag)

How to bottle feed a kitten:

Warmth first! Heat kittens slowly so that you do not put them into shock. You can do this with a towel that has been heated in the dryer, place them on a towel that is resting on a Snuggle Safe disc, or tuck a kitten under your shirt and use your own body heat. While heating the kitten, gently massage the body and extremities to get blood flowing throughout the body.

Never let a kitten lie on a heat source without cover. Make sure that they have space to crawl off the heat source if they get too warm. Constantly check the warmth of the heat source to make sure it cannot burn the kitten, and that it is staying warm enough.

Kittens cannot maintain their own body temperature. The average rectal temperature of a newborn kitten ranges between 92-97 degrees. Between 2-21 days old, a kitten's temperature will be about 96 – 100 degrees. You will need to build the kitten a nest to keep it warm. The temperature in the nest where the kitten is kept should be 86 degrees. The temperature can be lowered 5 degrees a week thereafter until a mild 75 degrees is reached. To create a good nest, place them in a carrier and put a towel or blanket over the carrier to trap in the heat. You can also do this with a cardboard box.

Estimated Kitten Age (weeks)	Kitten Weight (lbs, oz)	Kitten Weight (grams)	Daily Caloric Requirement*	Amount of Formula Per Day (ml)**	Amount Per Feeding (ml)*	Approximate Number of Feedings Per Day***
< 1 week	2 oz	57 g	11 kcal	15 ml	2 ml	7
	3 oz	85 g	17 kcal	23 ml	3 ml	7
	4 oz	113 g	23 kcal	31 ml	5 ml	7
1 week	5 oz	142 g	28 kcal	38 ml	6 ml	7
	6 oz	170 g	34 kcal	46 ml	7 ml	7
	7 oz	198 g	40 kcal	54 ml	8 ml	7
2 weeks	8 oz	227 g	45 kcal	61 ml	9 ml	7
	9 oz	255 g	51 kcal	69 ml	10 ml	7
	10 oz	283 g	57 kcal	77 ml	11 ml	7
3 weeks*	11 oz	312 g	62 kcal	84 ml	12 ml	6-7
	12 oz	340 g	68 kcal	92 ml	14 ml	6-7
	13 oz	369 g	74 kcal	100 ml	15 ml	6
4 weeks*	14 oz	397 g	79 kcal	107 ml	16 ml	5
	15 oz	425 g	85 kcal	115 ml	17 ml	5
	16 oz (1 lb)	454 g	91 kcal	123 ml	18 ml	5
5 weeks*	1 lb, 1 oz	482 g	96 kcal	130 ml	19 ml	4
	1 lb, 2 oz	510 g	102 kcal	138 ml	20 ml	4
	1 lb, 3 oz	539 g	108 kcal	146 ml	22 ml	4
5 weeks*	1 lb, 4 oz	567 g	113 kcal	153 ml	23 ml	4

Table by Maddie's Fund

It is important not to overfeed or underfeed your kitten. Overfeeding can cause serious health problems that begin with diarrhea, and end with dehydration. One way to tell whether you're consistently feeding too much is the appearance of grayish stool. On the other hand, a kitten who is not fed enough will cry continuously, appear restless, and then listless. Refer to the above table for how much and how often to feed your kitten.

Check your bottle's nipple to see if formula drips from its tip. If it does not, you will need to widen the hole. You can do this by using a hot needle to poke a larger hole, or use a razor blade to make a small "x" in the top. Do not make it too wide though. You only want the formula to drip slowly, not pour, out of the nipple.

Be sure you sterilize the bottle and nipple before each feeding, and warm the formula to no more than 100 degrees. Test the formula on your wrist – it should feel warm, not hot.

Start feeding:

Place your kitten on its stomach on a towel so they can grip the towel with their nails. Lift their head to a 45 degree angle. Squeeze a small drop of formula on to the tip of the nipple. Insert the nipple into their mouth (you may have to open their mouth for them). The angle will help keep air from entering their stomach and will keep milk at the front of the nipple. NEVER HOLD THE KITTEN ON THEIR BACK OR IN THE AIR WHEN YOU FEED THEM.

When your kitten is full, their tummy will be slightly rounded and bubbles will form around their mouth. If the kitten has not finished the bottle, do not force the kitten to swallow the rest of the milk.

If the kitten is not drinking well, you can use a toothbrush to brush down their sides. This mimics a mother's tongue and will often soothe them. They should nurse from the bottle better using this technique.

Burping your kitten:

Just like human babies, kittens need to be burped. Hold the kitten up against your shoulder, pat and rub them gently on their back. Not all kittens will burp every time. If the kitten did not finish her bottle, you can offer it to them again.

Stimulating your kitten:

Kittens younger than 3 weeks of age cannot eliminate by themselves – they need your help. After feeding and burping the kitten, take a washcloth or gauze moistened with warm water and rub over the kitten's stomach and bottom. The action mimics a mother cat's licking and stimulates the kitten to relieve themselves. Kittens need to be stimulated to eliminate after every meal. Rub until you see evidence of urine and/or stool. A kitten should urinate with every feeding, but it may only defecate 2-3 times daily.

Washing your kitten after the meal:

Make sure you wash your kitten(s) after every meal. Kittens are messy and will need the simulation of the mother's tongue. To mimic this, you will need to get a damp warm washcloth and stroke the kitten from head to tail with short "licks" like mom would. Make sure you gently towel dry the kitten when you are done. Never submerge your kitten in water.

Dietary Habits with Growth

- At **four weeks**, you can start introducing canned food (they usually start showing interest in what mom is eating). Mixing a little warm water with the canned food and placing it in a container with low sides (plate, small dish, etc.) will usually do the trick. Expect them to walk through it too. No one ever said kittens were neat. After a few attempts, they will get the idea. Feed them their last meal just before bedtime. They usually eat and then go straight to sleep. You can warm the food in the microwave for about 6 seconds. Make sure to stir the food and test it with your finger. Do not give hot food to kittens.
- **5-6 weeks old:** three small (approximately one quarter of a three ounce can) meals of canned food per day per kitten. If that is too much food in the beginning you can adjust accordingly. Always leave plenty of dry food out for them to eat during the day.
- **6-8 weeks of age:** three meals a day (about one quarter of a can) per kitten, and free feed dry food. Always keep dry kibble out at all times for the kittens to eat.

Overfeeding can cause digestive problems. Frequent small meals are preferred to large meals.

All cats and kittens need fresh water at all times.



Photo by Barbara Pirk

Supplies

Hayward Animal Shelter wants you to know how much we appreciate you, and we want you to feel supported. To that end, we loan you some supplies with each foster group to use during your fostering experience, and we want to be sure you have the following information to answer frequently asked questions.



Baby Bottles and Formula

Bottle feeding supplies will only be in your baby bag if you take home kittens under 4 weeks. Be sure to contact your coordinator before bottle-feeding kittens—the process can be quite tricky.



Photo by Debbie Brusius

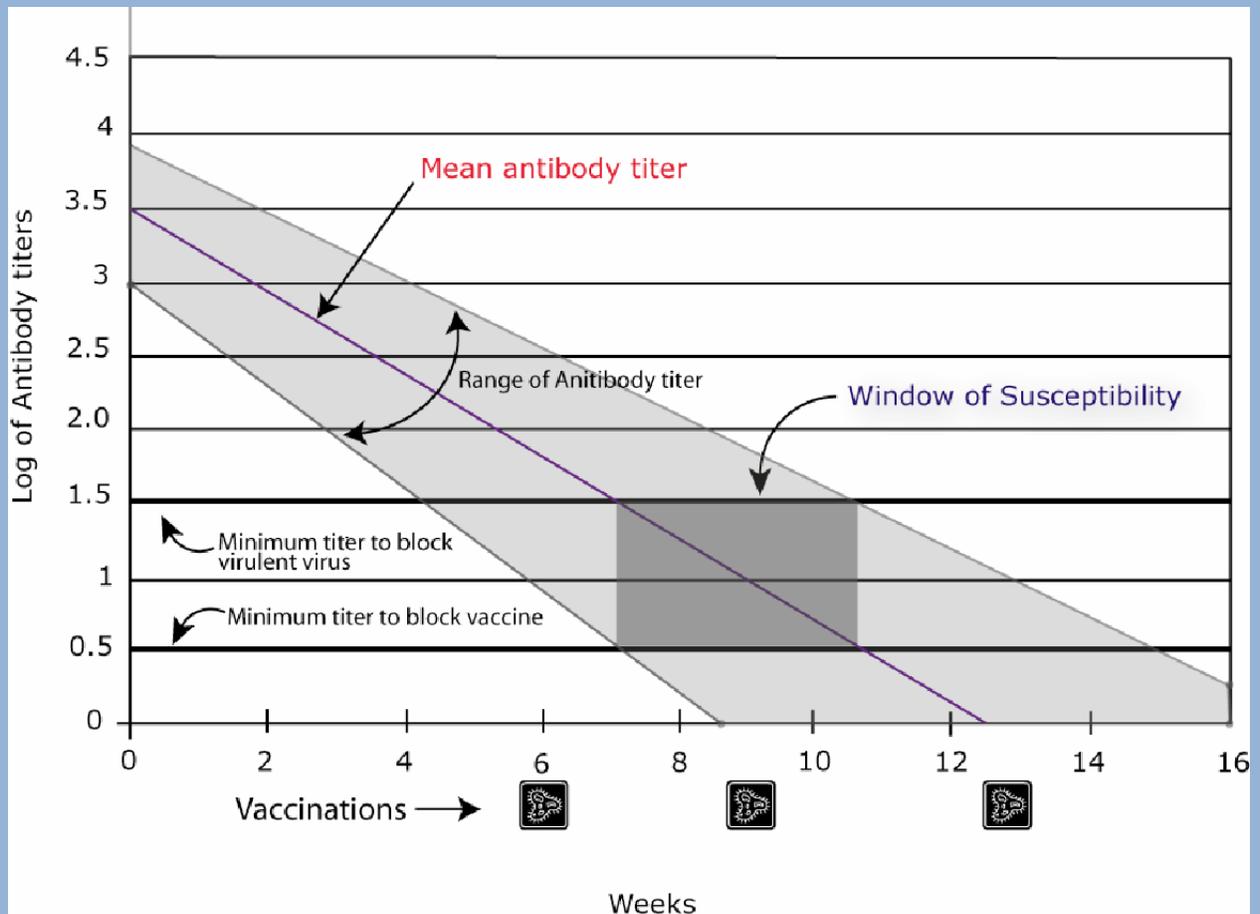
KMR is the kitten replacement milk used by the Hayward Animal Shelter and is provided to us by donations from the public. Whenever possible we will supply fosters with KMR however if fosters are able to purchase this as well it will help prevent our shelter from running out.

KMR can be purchased on Amazon or at any local pet store.

Kittens and Vaccinations

When a kitten is born and first nurses on the mother, the kitten gets a dose of colostrum from the mother; this colostrum is filled with good immune cells, also known as Maternally Derived Antibodies (MDA), to protect the kitten from common feline illnesses. MDA will interfere with the kitten's ability to make their own protective immune cells. This dose of colostrum starts to disappear from the body of the kitten between 4-8 weeks of age, but can last in the kitten up to 16 weeks, and we cannot predict the exact timing in the loss of the protection they receive from the MDA.

The idea of using a Modified Live Vaccine (MLV) is to stimulate the kitten's own immune system into making more protective immune cells, as the MDA disappears. By giving the dose of vaccine every 2-4 weeks, we are able to minimize that "window of susceptibility", which is the time when the MDA disappears and when the kitten is able to make their own immune cells to fight infectious disease. When we vaccinate kittens at 6 weeks of age that did not get any colostrum, the vaccine may be effective immediately. Kittens that received a large dose of colostrum, or MDA, may not be able to have a response to the vaccine until they are 18 weeks old; the best strategy then is to give the dose of vaccine every 2-3 weeks until the kitten is 18 weeks old.



Vaccine Reactions

Vaccine reactions can include, but are not limited to:

- Limping
- Not eating or drinking the normal amounts for 1-2 days
- Lethargy
- Pain at the sight of injection
- Unwillingness to play
- Low-grade fever

If any of these symptoms do not improve by 48 hours after the injection, please contact your coordinator.

A more serious reaction happens fairly instantaneously and includes; severe vomiting, diarrhea, facial swelling, and difficulty breathing. The kitten will need to be seen by a vet IMMEDIATELY.



Kitten Development and Vaccine Schedule:

The following is some general information about what to expect at each stage of development. Remember that these are averages. Please weigh your kittens regularly to keep an eye on development. Daily is best for the first 3 weeks or at any time if the kittens get sick, otherwise every 2-3 days is fine. Kittens should gain about four ounces per week, on average.

Newborn	Completely dependent on mother. Eyelids closed, ears folded forward – cannot see, or hear. Sense of smell is the first to develop completely and is the most developed sense of birth.
2-3 Days	Umbilical cord falls off.
One Week	Eyes begin to open – all kittens have blue eyes. Kittens huddle together for security and warmth.
10 Days	Ears unfold, hearing will develop. Can move along with belly on the ground, “paddling” limbs for movement.
Two Weeks	Being to play with littermates, learning how to socialize. Can stand and balance, but cannot walk easily. Teething begins. Eyes are fully open.
16-18 Days	Incisors (tiny front teeth) break through.
20-24 Days	Canine teeth break through.
Three Weeks	Mobile and eager to explore, making mock-aggressive rushes and stalking littermates. Cannot retract claws. Weigh the kittens regularly to keep an eye on development. Should be played with and handled at least 1 hour every day for good socialization.
24-28 Days	Molars begin to break through.
Four Weeks	Introduce solid food in 3-4 small meals per day. Begin litter box training. Will begin wrestling with littermates. Will receive first deworming (Strongid). Ask your mentor for help with dosing and administration.
Five Weeks	Learning to hunt by pouncing on toys and each other.
Six Weeks	Adult eye color begins to appear. First vaccination for kittens. Kittens are vaccinated against common viruses that cause upper respiratory infection and feline distemper (FVRCP). Receive second deworming.
Eight Weeks and Older	Mom and kittens need to be brought to the shelter for their scheduled surgery appointment. The exam will include: FeLV and FIV testing if not previously done, deworming if needed, spay or neuter (if weight is at least 2 pounds and kitten is healthy), microchip, treatment for fleas and ear mites as directed by the veterinarian, and possibly another vaccine. Second vaccination occurs 21 days after the first.

Vaccines and Deworming Treatments

Vaccines:

FVRCP is the vaccine for Feline Viral Rhinotracheitis, Calicivirus, and Panleukopenia (URI and Distemper)

FVRCP is given at 4 weeks of age or older depending on when they went through intake.

2nd FVRCP is given 21 days after the first FVRCP. No later than 30 days after or you will need to restart the series.

3rd FVRCP is given 21 days after the second FVRCP. No later than 30 days after or you will need to restart the series.

4th FVRCP is given 21 days after the third FVRCP. No later than 30 days after or you will need to restart the series. This vaccine may not be given if the kitten was vaccinated after its 18 week date with the 3rd FVRCP.

Worming:

Strongid is for Roundworms. You might see these pass in the stool after treatment - they will look like spaghetti.

Strongid is given at 4 weeks of age or older depending on when they went through intake.

2nd Strongid is given 14 days after the first dose. This series is repeated every 2 weeks until the kittens have returned for adoption. If you are more than 21 days late you will need to restart the dosing series.

Droncit is for Tapeworms. You will see rice-looking segments in their stools.

Droncit is given at surgery time if needed (noted by the foster parent). Tapeworms usually do not cause significant problems and may be treated at time of altering.

Health Concerns

The following is a list of common medical issues you may encounter as a foster parent with you mother cat and/or kittens. This information is not meant to be extensive, just to

give you an idea of what common ailments may look like and how they might be resolved. This is not a substitute for the expert advice of a trained medical professional.

If your foster kitten displays any of these symptoms, call your Mentor immediately:

- Sneezing and/or congestion with green or yellow discharge from the nose and/or eyes.
- Coughing, wheezing, or heavy breathing.
- Diarrhea or vomiting – **this can be life threatening to kittens!**
- Straining to urinate or defecate – **this can be life threatening, especially for male cats!**
- Bleeding from any part of the body.
- Lethargy – kitten seems sleepy all the time.
- Fever.
- Paralysis.
- Extreme change in attitude or behavior.
- Not eating or drinking regularly.
- Temperature too low (below 98°F) or too high (above 104°F).



Please have specifics ready to give when contacting your mentor.



Photo by Barbara Pirk

Common Ailments

Upper Respiratory Infection

Upper respiratory tract infections (URI) or “kitty colds” are common occurrences in shelters. The majority are caused by one of two viruses, although they can have some bacterial components. Signs of URI include congestion, excessive sneezing, fever, discolored (green or yellow) nose or eye discharge, and/or a fever.

Please contact your mentor if you suspect your kitten(s) of having an Upper Respiratory Infection. They may be able to advise you to start the kittens on amoxicillin. *DO NOT ADMINISTER AMOXICILLIN WITHOUT BEING ADVISED TO DO SO.* If symptoms do not resolve after 7 days of Amoxicillin, please contact your mentor.

If your foster cat/kitten is showing signs of URI, please do the following:

- Make sure the cat/kitten is eating. Cats that are congested often won't eat because they can't smell the food. If they are not eating well, warm up a strong-smelling canned food, and offer it to them. You can also provide them several different options to ensure there is one they like.
 - Cats and kittens should be eating at least 50% of the food offered to them
 - After 24 hours of not eating or eating less than 50%, please give SQ fluids (you or your mentor). Continue this daily until the appetite resumes to more than 50%.
 - If a kitten does not eat for the next meal after the initial SQ fluids, you or your mentor should begin supplemental force feeding and schedule an appointment with the shelter hospital. Only force feed if you have been trained.
 - If an adult cat does not eat for an additional 24 hours after the initial SQ fluids, contact your mentor, and schedule an appointment with the shelter hospital.
- If the cat/kitten has eye or nose discharge, clean their nose/eyes at least twice daily with a wet, warm washcloth. Gently wipe the eye from the nose side out to the side of the face.
- If the cat/kitten is congested, place them in a room with a humidifier, or in a carrier in a bathroom with the hot shower running (steam) to aid congestion. You can also hold the kitten on your lap. Nothing should ever be added to the water like Vic's Vapor Rub or similar products. Also, never leave a kitten alone in a bathroom with the hot shower running unless it is in the carrier.
 - Place nasal saline drops in the cat/kitten's nose to aid congestion (1 drop per nostril, 2-3 times daily).
 - A product called “Little Noses” can also be used on URI kittens. Please use Little Noses without decongestant (saline-only solution). This product can be used as long as needed, and can be used in both nostrils up to three times daily.

- Provide supplemental warmth, especially for young kittens (rice sock, snuggle safe warming disk, etc.).

Conjunctivitis

Conjunctivitis is characterized by swelling and/or yellow or green discharge around the eyes. An eye ointment or drops are typically prescribed to treat the infection. *DO NOT ADMINISTER WITHOUT BEING ADVISED TO DO SO.* To administer the ointment hold the kitten's eye open and squeeze the ointment into the eye moving across the eye without touching the tip of the tube to the eye. To administer eye drops hold the kitten's eye open and let then let the drop fall into the inside corner of the eye near the tear duct. Open and close the eye a few times to get ointment or drops worked in well.

To clean the kitten's eyes, use a cotton ball or gauze that is clean with warm water. If the eye is sealed shut you will need to use the warm cotton ball as a compress and let it sit there for a few minutes. This will soften the crusted material around the eye. Once it is soft and pliable you can wipe it from the eye. Start at the area closest to the nose and wipe outward. Don't force the material off of the eye. You may need to continue to let the cotton ball set on the eyelid to soften the material for longer. Once everything has been cleaned around the eye you can administer eye medications. It will be helpful to the kitten if you can gently wipe the eye clean multiple times a day. If you do not have a cotton ball or gauze square you can use a soft washcloth. Make sure that you use a clean washcloth each time. Never share between kittens either.

Vomiting

Vomiting can be very dangerous for kittens because they dehydrate so quickly. Vomiting is not as common as diarrhea, so it's especially troubling, especially if the kitten is vomiting repeatedly. Call your mentor right away.

Dehydration

Dehydration can kill a small kitten quickly. Mentors should train you on how to do a skin tenting test. With smaller kittens another way to test hydration is to feel the gums. If they are sticky instead of slippery, the kitten is dehydrated. Also look at the color of the gums. If it is white with no color, please report this when you call your mentor.

Diarrhea

A few things too keep in mind when examining your kitten's poop:

- A little bit of bright red blood on poop is ok. So is a little bit of bright red blood on a kitten's bottom. It's usually a reaction to something that they ate, new food, stress, new location, etc.
- A **lot** of blood is not ok.

- Diarrhea is probably the most common problem with kittens. Runny poop seems to be a kitten's preferred response to almost all stress or illness. It can be dangerous for kittens because the water lost in the stool tends to dehydrate them rapidly.



A “Free” Kitty is *Never* Free!

A “Free” Kitten:

A Kitten from The Hayward Animal Shelter

–Average Costs –

– Included in the Adoption Fee –

- New Patient Vet Exam - \$45-55
- Spay/Neuter - \$200/\$130
- FeLV and FIV Testing - \$41
- Microchip (and Registration) - \$50
- FVRCP Vaccinations - \$18-25
- Treatment for Parasites (Fleas, worms, etc.) - \$50

- Health Exam
- All Medical Care Prior to Adoption
- Spay/Neuter Surgery
- Microchip, including registration
- FVRCP Vaccinations
- Treatment for Parasites (Fleas, Worms, Ear Mites, etc.)
- You and Your New Kitten Handbook
- Sample of Food

TOTAL:

TOTAL:

\$334-\$421 or more
(updated February 2017)

*Female \$118
*Male \$98

Cleaning Between Your Foster Groups

The joy of letting go of one foster group is knowing that they will be going to loving homes while you are able to take in another that may not otherwise be able to find shelter to grow in such a loving environment. Please consider the following guidelines when transitioning between groups.

Once you have taken the kittens back to the shelter for surgery it is time to clean and prepare your kitten room for your next foster group. You will need to remove all bedding, and wash it in hot water with bleach added. Follow your machine's guidelines for adding bleach to the wash load.

You will also need to clean the litter box. Empty all of the contents, and wash with hot soapy water. Rinse well and then fill with hot water, add one cup of bleach and let it sit for at least 10 minutes. Rinse and dry well.



For food and water dishes you can run them through the dishwasher and they will be cleaned for your next group. Or, you can clean them as you did the litter box if you don't have a dishwasher.

If you have carpeted floors you will need to vacuum well and spot clean any areas that need it. If you have a carpet cleaner you should use it between groups. If you do not have carpet, sweep and mop the floor. Once the floor is

dry, mop again with a bleach water solution (1 cup of bleach to 1 gallon of water) and let it sit for ten minutes. Afterwards you will want to rinse with clear water and then let it dry.

You will need to wipe down all surfaces with a bleach water solution or Clorox Cleanup. You should also wipe the walls down. You do not have to do all of the wall but at least the bottom 3 feet.

If you have a bed in the room, change the covering on it. If you have a chair or couch in the room you will need to vacuum it and spot clean if needed. Ideally, your foster room will be void of anything covered in material like a chair or couch unless it is covered with a plastic sheet designed to protect them.

Thank you from all of us at the Hayward Animal Shelter



Hayward Animal Services
Administrator-Jennie Comstock
Shelter Operations Supervisor-Cris Nakata
Shelter Operations Supervisor-Heather Rappa
Foster Coordinator-Traci Young

