

FRESNO HUMANE ANIMAL SERVICES

# *La-Meowze Class*

BOTTLE-  
BABY  
TRAINING




*Sunday, April 23rd 11:00am*



# ***welcome!***

## **In this course, you will learn:**

- Proper housing for neonates
  - Preparation of formula
  - Bottle-feeding techniques
  - How to stimulate kittens
  - Common issues and ailments
  - Critical care
  - What to do in an emergency
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# ***Housing***

- Neonates can be kept in a carrier or crate until they are old enough to walk around and go to the bathroom on their own
- The goal is to keep them warm, safe and secure
- Crates should have blankets and heat source

Make sure kittens cannot fit through the holes or bars of the crate



# ***Heat Sources***

**Warming Disk** - Must be covered with a blanket or disk cover so kittens do not have contact with disk. Follow directions on disk.



**Rice Sock** - Should be covered if sock is too hot, may need 1-2 depending on the size of the crate and number of kittens.



**\* Kittens should have the ability to move away from heat source if they become too warm \***

# Supplies

**Fresno Humane Animal Services will provide supplies to get you started and you can pick up more supplies as you run out**

Because we offer supplies, we will not reimburse for supplies bought on your own.

## Supplies we provide:

- Formula (Breeder's Edge or KMR)
- Bottles
- Miracle Nipple
- Oral Syringes (for feeding)
- Carrying crate
- Heat Source



# ***Preparing Formula***

1. Measure out powdered formula into a shaker bottle, jar with lid, baby bottle, etc.
2. Add the appropriate amount of warm water (follow manufacturers' instructions)
3. Mix Mix Mix! Be sure that there are **no clumps** in the formula, the mixture should be smooth
4. Formula should be comfortably warm. You can warm it by placing a bottle or syringe of formula in a cup of hot water.

Shaker Bottles are perfect for mixing formula, just be sure to keep them clean!



# ***Storing Formula***



- You can mix the amount of formula you will use in 24 hours. After 24 hours, discard all mixed and opened canned formula.
- Opened bags/canisters/cans and mixed formula should be kept in the refrigerator.
- Only reheat the amount of formula you need per feeding. Discard formula that was not used after a feeding.
- Be sure to clean bottles, nipples and syringes **THOROUGHLY** after each use



# ***Feeding***

- Neonatal kittens need to be fed around the clock (24 hours a day) depending on their age
- They should **ONLY** be fed kitten-specific formula, **NEVER** cow's milk or human formula
- Once you get your neonate home, you can alter their feeding times to fit your schedule, but they will still need to be fed the appropriate frequency.
  - For example: If you bring home a pair of 2-week-old kittens, they should be fed every 3 hours: 8am, 11am, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, 11pm, 2am, 5am

<i><b>PUPPY/ KITTEN AGE</b></i>	<i><b>FREQUENCY</b></i>
0 to 1 week	Every 2 hours
1 to 2 weeks	Every 2 to 3 hours
2 to 3 weeks	Every 3 to 4 hours
3 to 4 weeks	Every 4 to 5 hours



# Feeding

- Refer to the chart (right) when determining how much to feed your kitten or puppy. This chart is printed in our neonate handout which you will receive each time you pick up a neonate.
- It is important that your neonate is eating the correct amount. Over-feeding is dangerous and should be avoided

PUPPY/KITTEN WEIGHT	TOTAL DAILY AMOUNT	PER FEEDING AMOUNT FOR NEWBORN (every 3 to 4 hours)	PER FEEDING AMOUNT FOR OLDER PUPPY/KITTEN (every 6 to 8 hours)
4 oz.	2 Tbsp.	5 mL	10 mL
6 oz.	3 Tbsp.	7.5 mL	15 mL
8 oz.	4 Tbsp.	10 mL	20 mL
10 oz.	5 Tbsp.	12.5 mL	25 mL
12 oz.	6 Tbsp.	15 mL	30 mL
14 oz.	7 Tbsp.	17.5 mL	35 mL
16 oz.	8 Tbsp.	20 mL	40 mL
18 oz.	9 Tbsp.	22.5 mL	45 mL
20 oz.	10 Tbsp.	25 mL	50 mL
22 oz.	11 Tbsp.	27.5 mL	55 mL
24 oz.	12 Tbsp.	30 mL	60 mL
26 oz.	13 Tbsp.	32.5 mL	65 mL
28 oz.	14 Tbsp.	35 mL	70 mL
30 oz.	15 Tbsp.	37.5 mL	75 mL
32 oz.	16 Tbsp.	40 mL	80 mL

# ***Feeding Technique***



## **Some tips for successful and safe bottle-feeding:**

- Neonates should be fed while lying on their stomach. Do NOT feed them on their back or any other position
- **Make sure your kitten is warm, never feed a cold kitten!!**
- Allow their front legs to be free so they can “knead” with their paws
- If they do not latch right away, try slow drip of formula - Make sure you do no drop too much for them to swallow at a time.
- The nipple you are using should have adequate flow. Formula should drip out when the bottle is inverted at a 180 degree angle.
  - Miracle Nipples are the best option!

# ***Feeding Technique***

Most kittens you will bottle-feed will be too young to hold up their head well. You can help them by cradling their head or creating a "head band" with your hand to keep their steady.



# ***Bottle-Feeding Resources***

The Kitten Lady is a great reference for all things kittens! She has videos on every step of kitten care.

[www.kittenlady.org](http://www.kittenlady.org)



Best Friends Animal Society also has helpful resources.

[www.youtube.com/@BestFriendsVideos](http://www.youtube.com/@BestFriendsVideos)



How to Bottle-Feed a Kitten: [https://youtu.be/I2P6xOIL\\_Y](https://youtu.be/I2P6xOIL_Y)

How to Syringe Feed a Kitten: <https://youtu.be/1dH0uyboY2U>  
(6:20-9:15)

# ***After-Feeding Care***

**When your kitten is done eating:**

1. Clean them up! Make sure they are dry and faces are clean
2. Get out that air! Gently pat them on the back to elicit burps. Air bubbles can be very painful!



# ***Stimulating***

Kittens under 4 weeks old need assistance to relieve themselves. If they do not have a mom present, we need to step in to do this.

- Using a clean, soft cloth, tissue, or baby wipe gently rub the neonate's back end in a circular or up and down motion to stimulate them to urinate and defecate
- As they go, keep turning your cloth or tissue to a clean side or grab additional cloths/tissues as needed
- Clean up their back end once they are done going to the bathroom and make sure they are dry
- Kittens can get urine burns if they are not properly cleaned!



# ***Stimulating***





# ***Common Issues***

## **Aspiration**

***What is it?*** The inhalation of milk into the lungs, you may see milk coming from their nose

### ***How to prevent it:***

- Do not feed kittens on their backs
- Make sure the flow of formula is not too fast
- Make sure kittens are swallowing formula
- If they eat too fast, try syringe feeding

### ***What to do if it happens:***

- Stop feeding, hold the kitten inverted (tail up) and gently pat their back to elicit a cough
- Be sure to wipe milk coming from their nose/mouth
- Keep a close eye on your kitten after this happens, listen for rattling in the chest.



# ***Common Issues***

## **Diarrhea**

***What is it?*** Kitten has runny, frequent stool



### ***How to prevent it:***

- Do not overfeed
- Keep bottles and nipples clean
- Do not feed unrefrigerated/old formula
- Do not switch formulas abruptly

### ***What to do if it happens:***

- Try diluting formula to 3 parts water : 1 part powder
- Add in a pinch of Fortiflora Probiotics (we can provide if we have it in stock)
- If diarrhea persists for more than 24-48 hours, email us to set up an appointment

# ***Common Issues***

## **Constipation**

***What is it?*** Kitten infrequent, hard stool

***How to prevent it:***

- Ensure they are intaking enough fluids, most constipation stems from dehydration

***What to do if it happens:***

- Try diluting formula to 3 parts water : 1 part powder
- Add in a pinch of Fortiflora Probiotics (we can provide if we have it in stock)
- If constipation persists for more than 2 days, email us



# ***Common Issues***

## **Scalding**

***What is it?*** Burns on skin causes by urine and/or feces

***How to prevent it:***

- Stimulate kittens every time you feed them
- If you notice they are wetting themselves, stimulate them more often
- Keep them clean and dry
- Change out wet bedding quickly

***What to do if it happens:***

- Keep scalded skin clean and dry
- Email us to set up an appointment
- Do NOT wait until skin is infected!



# ***Medical Care***



If your foster kitten has new or worsening symptoms of illness, please email us as soon as possible to let us know.

**If it is an after-hours emergency, please call our  
Emergency Line: (559) 977-0007.**

***Please do not take your foster animal to a veterinarian unless authorized to do so by Fresno Humane.***

***Unauthorized veterinary and emergency bills will not be reimbursed.***

Please administer medications/treatments as directed by FHAS. Do not start or stop any medication unless directed to do so.

# ***Medical Care***

**Send us an email if your kitten is:**

- Sneezing
- Having diarrhea for 24-48+ hours
- Is constipated for 2+ days
- Has fleas
- Has difficulties latching, but is still eating
- Needs to return to the shelter

**Call our emergency line after hours if :**

- Kitten is lethargic, not moving
- Kitten is not eating for over 24 hours
- Kitten is cold and unresponsive
- Any other life-threatening incident or condition

(If these things occur during our open hours, please email us/bring kitten to shelter)

# ***Returning your fosters***

If you need to bring your kitten(s) back for any reason, PLEASE email us ahead of time so we can work on finding another foster home for them.

If you are feeling overwhelmed and are not able to care for your fosters any longer, PLEASE reach out to us. Do not feel like you are stuck!





# ***Questions?***



***catfoster@fresnohumane.org***

# ***Contact us***

***catfoster@fresnohumane.org***

Join our Foster Facebook Group:

[facebook.com/groups/fresnohumanefosters](https://facebook.com/groups/fresnohumanefosters)

Visit our Foster Board:

[trello.com/b/51WWtAEn/fhas-foster-animals](https://trello.com/b/51WWtAEn/fhas-foster-animals)