

FOUND A KITTEN OUTSIDE?

Use the CASA method to determine the best outcome based on the kitten's **CONDITION, AGE, SITUATION, and ACCESS** to resources.

CONDITION

If a young kitten is in good condition, it means her mother is caring for her.



GOOD CONDITION

- Clean and alert
- Chunky and well-fed
- Not in distress

Mom is likely right around the corner! It's best to keep them with her—outdoors or in foster care.



BAD CONDITION

- Dirty or covered in waste
- Gaunt or visibly underweight
- In distress or medical crisis

These kittens may truly be orphaned, and need swift intervention!

AGE

A kitten's age will help you determine the right course of action.



NURSING AGE

- Uncoordinated or wobbly
- Closed or blue eyes, small ears; <1.5 lbs
- Dependent on mom, staying near nest

Kittens under 5 weeks should stay with mom if healthy and safe. Leave in place or bring in the whole family if able to foster.



SOCIALIZATION AGE

- Walking, running and playing
- Kitten-like proportions; ~1.5–3 lbs
- Eating independently, exploring cautiously

Kittens are most easily socialized at ~5–9 weeks; harder to socialize by ~10–12 weeks. Foster and place for adoption if able.



INDEPENDENT AGE

- Coordinated and agile
- Proportionate, lanky body; ~3+ lbs
- Fully independent, roaming confidently

At this age kittens are difficult to socialize for adoption. The best outcome is typically trap-neuter-return (TNR).

SITUATION

Every situation will be different. Use your best judgment for when to intervene.



SAFE SITUATION

- Mother is present
- Caregiver is present
- Family has food and shelter



UNSAFE SITUATION

- No one is caring for the kitten
- Kitten is exposed to extreme weather or hazards

ACCESS

The kitten's access to community resources is the most important factor. When shelters and rescues are at capacity, your willingness to *personally help* may be critical!



ASK YOURSELF

- Does your local shelter have foster parents available right now?
- Are you or someone you know able to foster for a few weeks?
- Can you access sterilization services for the family?

DON'T FORGET: Where there are kittens, *there are cats!* Always work to trap and sterilize community cats in order to prevent future births.



Learn more about kitten care at KittenLady.org.



KITTEN LADY