



What to Do with Kittens that You Find Outside

Weeks	Physical Appearance	Behavior	What to do if you find a kitten(s) at this age outside
Newborn	Eyes closed, ears folded down, umbilical cord attached, very fragile, can't stand, not much bigger than a hot dog bun	Can't regulate their own body temperature, sleep most of the day when not eating from mama, do not move much or leave nest, cannot urinate or defecate on their own (mama stimulates them with her tongue)	Leave them where they are. Wait out of sight 4-6 hours for mama to come back. Monitor the family, trap mama and rescue kittens when they are 5-6 weeks old. If mama is dead or gone, rescue, make sure they are warm (first), then bottle feed KMR, stimulate them with a warm cotton ball to urinate and defecate
1	Eyes closed, ears still folded down, no umbilical cord	Rolling and wiggling a bit, cannot urinate or defecate their own	Leave them where they are. Wait out of sight 4-6 hours for mama to come back. Monitor the family, trap mama and rescue kittens when they are 5-6 weeks old. If mama is dead or gone, rescue, make sure they are warm (first), then bottle feed KMR, stimulate them with a warm cotton ball to urinate and defecate
2	Eyes start to open, blue eyes, ears still folded down	Scooting and taking first steps, very wobbly, staying in nest, cannot urinate or defecate on their own	Leave them where they are. Wait out of sight 4-6 hours for mama to come back. Monitor the family, trap mama and rescue kittens when they are 5-6 weeks old. If mama is dead or gone, rescue, make sure they are warm (first), then bottle feed KMR, stimulate them with a warm cotton ball to urinate and defecate
3	Blue eyes, fully open, ears starting to stand up, getting first baby teeth	Can start to lick up a slurry of watered-down canned food mixed with KMR on their own if introduced to it. Getting curious, looking around taking first steps out of nest, starting to urinate and defecate their own, but not in a litter box, genitalia developed enough for identification	Leave them where they are. Wait out of sight 4-6 hours for mama to come back. Monitor the family, trap mama and rescue kittens when they are 5-6 weeks old. If mama is dead or gone, rescue, keep warm, bottle feed KMR, introduce to canned food watered down, stimulate if not eliminating
4	Blue eyes open, vision improving, ears fully up	Walking around with confidence, venturing out of nest, starting to find the litter box, eating lots of slurry	Try to keep them with mama a little longer. Monitor the family, trap mama and rescue kittens when they are 5-6 weeks old. If mama is dead or gone, rescue, introduce to canned food watered down mixed with KMR, stimulate if not eliminating
5	Blue eyes open, ears fully up, back teeth coming in	Eating regular canned food and some kibble, running around yard, stalking, pouncing, following mama to food source	Trap kittens with mama. Spay and return mama immediately if she is feral. Keep her with her kittens until they are 8 weeks if she is friendly
6	Blue eyes open, ears fully up, all baby teeth in	Nursing less from mama, eating solid food regularly, exploring on their own, joining mama at meals	Trap kittens with mama. Spay and return mama immediately if she is feral. Keep her with her kittens until they are 8 weeks if she is friendly
7	Blue eyes start changing to adult color	Nursing occasionally from mama, energetic and playful	Trap kittens with mama. Spay and return mama immediately if she is feral. Keep her with her kittens until they are 8 weeks if she is friendly
8	Adult eye color becoming more predominant	May be nursing occasionally from mama, should be about 2 lbs	Trap and remove kittens. Ready for spay/neuter if 2 lbs. Separate kittens from mama. TNR mama immediately if feral.



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9	Adult eye color becoming more predominant, growth rate slowing	May be nursing occasionally from mama, but mama is about done with this. Should be more than 2 lbs	Trap kittens and mama. Separate kittens from mama. Spay/neuter everyone. Socialize kittens if you have time and resources. TNR mama immediately if feral.
10	Have adult eye color, playful and active	Should be 2.5 lbs	Trap kittens and mama. Separate kittens from mama. Spay/neuter everyone. Socialize kittens if you have time and resources. TNR mama immediately if feral.
11	Have adult eye color, playful and active	Should be 2.5+ lbs	Trap kittens and mama. Separate kittens from mama. Spay/neuter everyone. Socialize kittens if you have time and resources. TNR mama immediately if feral.
12	Have adult eye color, playful and active	Should be 3 lbs	Trap kittens and mama. Separate kittens from mama. Spay/neuter everyone. Socialize kittens if you have time and resources. TNR mama immediately if feral.
13	Have adult eye color, playful and active	Should be 3+ lbs	If the kittens have not received any socialization outside and is completely feral, sterilize, vaccinate and return to colony (TNR).
14	Have adult eye color, playful and active	Should be 3.5 lbs	If the kittens have not received any socialization outside and is completely feral, sterilize, vaccinate and return to colony (TNR).
15	Have adult eye color, playful and active	Should be 3.5+ lbs	If the kittens have not received any socialization outside and is completely feral, sterilize, vaccinate and return to colony (TNR).
16+	Have adult eye color, playful and active	Should be 4 lbs.	If the kittens have not received any socialization outside and is completely feral, sterilize, vaccinate and return to colony (TNR).