

BOTTLE FEEDING KITTENS

- Weigh your kitten once daily
 - ◆ At birth kittens normally weigh 80-120 grams (g)
 - ◆ Kittens gain about 100 g/week for the first 6 months (about 7 g per day).
- Use the weight reference chart to determine feeding amount
 - ◆ This is **ONLY** a guideline to help avoid over/under feeding.
- Only give your kitten the recommended amount. This will help their system adjust to formula.
- Breeder's Edge and Kitten Milk Replacement are kitten formulas widely available.
- Kittens need a 2 ounce (oz) bottle and a nipple. The tip should not extend past the middle of your kitten's tongue. Cut a small "X" shape at the tip of the nipple. Do not cut too deeply; the hole should not be large.
 - ◆ Nipples that are too long may get chewed and swallowed causing a life threatening obstruction.
- Prepare your formula according to the directions. Most use a 1:2 ratio of formula and water. Leftover formula can be stored in a covered container in the refrigerator for up to 24-hours. Discard any formula left at room temperature for longer than an hour. Powder formula must be refrigerated one hour after opening.
- Transfer milk to bottle and heat by placing the bottle in a warm water bath. Test the temperature on your forearm prior to feeding.
- Place kitten on their belly on a flat surface with their head up. Other positions may cause the kitten to aspirate.
- Slowly drip 1-2 drops of milk onto the kitten's tongue, The kitten should latch on to the bottle nipple. Be patient, it may take multiple attempts.
- Go slow. Allow the kitten time to swallow and breathe. Do not squeeze the bottle! Check for swallowing.
- Kittens under 3 weeks rely on mom to help them urinate and defecate. After your kitten is fed, stimulate your kitten with a dampened soft disposable cloth such as toilet paper or facial tissues, not paper towels. Hold the kitten steady with one hand, and gently rub the genital region in a circular motion with your soft tissue. The kitten should begin to urinate. Continue until your kitten is finished urinating. Repeat this step on the anus to encourage the kitten to defecate. Continue until kitten is finished.
- Urine should be clear/light yellow in color and occur at every feeding. Bottle-baby feces should be well formed, mustard yellow in color, and should occur at least 1-2 times a day. Clean your kitten when done.
- Return your kitten to a warm area. Kittens may require a heating source such as a heating pad or warming disc. Always wrap the warming source in a towel or blanket so the kitten is not directly touching the heat source. If using a heating pad, set to medium.
- Wash the bottle with warm water and mild dish soap. Sterilize the bottle and nipples in boiling water for 10 minutes once every 24-48 hours or between litters. Be sure the bottle and nipple are completely dry before the next feeding.

kitten weight and feeding chart

AGE	WEIGHT	AMOUNT PER FEEDING	SCHEDULE
0-1 week	50-150 grams	2-6 ml	Every 2 hours
1-2 weeks	150-250 grams	6-10 ml	Every 2-3 hours
2-3 weeks	250-350 grams	10-14 ml	Every 3-4 hours
3-4 weeks	350-450 grams	14-18 ml	Every 4-5 hours
4-5 weeks	450-550 grams	18-22 ml	Every 5-6 hours
5-8 weeks	550-850 grams	(weaning; offer ample wet food)	Every 6 hours

For more information visit spcaLA.com/foundkittens