



Newsletter

July 2017

Abandoned Kittens—Oh My!

We are at the peak of “kitten season” and it is not unusual to discover a litter of unattended kittens or a single kitten seemingly abandoned by the mother. Here are some recommendations for how and when to help.

First—Wait for Mom

You might have come across the kittens while their mother is off searching for food or is in the process of moving them to a different location. Try to determine if the mother is coming back for them or if they are truly orphaned. Stay far away from the kittens—35 feet or more. If you stand too close, the mom will not approach her kittens. You might need to go away completely before the mother cat will return to attend to the kittens. It might be several hours before the mother cat returns. Healthy kittens can survive this period without food as long as they are warm. Newborn or neonatal kittens are much more at risk of hypothermia than they are of starvation. The mother cat offers her kittens’ best chance for survival, so wait and watch as long as you can. The best food for the kittens is their mothers milk. Remove the kittens *only* if they are in immediate, grave danger.



If Mom Comes Back

If mom returns and the area is relatively safe, leave the kittens alone with mom until they are weaned. You can offer a shelter and regular food to mom. Try to keep the food some distance from the shelter.

Mom may not accept your shelter if the food is nearby because she will not want to attract other cats or animals to food located near her kittens.



Six to eight weeks is the optimal age to take the kittens from the mother for socialization and adoption. **Female cats can become pregnant with a new litter even while they are still nursing, so don’t forget to get the mother cat spayed or you will have more kittens soon!**

If Mom Does Not Come Back

- **Neonatal/Newborn Kittens**—These orphan kittens can range from newborn to about 4 weeks old. The younger the kitten, the more frequent the feedings. In general, kittens require feeding every 4 to 6 hours around the clock until about 3 weeks of age. If you take the kittens in, it is unlikely that you will find an organization with available staff or volunteers to take on bottle feeding. Animal shelters and veterinarians generally do not take in newborn kittens since they do not have the staff to feed them around-the-clock.
- **Weaned Kittens**—These kittens range from 5 to over 8 weeks old and are eating solid food. At 6 weeks old, these kittens will be ready for their initial exam and first vaccinations from your veterinarian. If you cannot foster these kittens yourself, you can call around to local shelters and rescue groups to see if they have the resources and space available to take in the kittens.
- **Feline Specialties Kitten Relinquishment**—Feline Specialties is proud to assist our community by taking in eligible kittens as we have space and resources available. While they are in our car, they are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, tested for FIV and feline leukemia, dewormed and routinely examined by our veterinarians until they are adopted by their forever home. **If you have a kitten/kittens that you would like to relinquish to feline Specialties, please call to place yourself on our waiting list. At that time, we will review with you our relinquishment policies and requirements.**



Feline Specialties Kitten Adoption Program

Cats are seasonal breeders and most females will go into heat in January/February and give birth in the spring. By summer, hundreds of weaned, unwanted kittens will arrive at local shelters and rescue groups—many of these kittens are abandoned. Recently, Street Cats had a box of 13 black kittens abandoned on their doorstep. We have tested, vaccinated, neutered/spayed and dewormed these adorable kittens and now have them up for adoption. However, since it is peak kitten season AND these are black kittens, they are slow to get adopted. Therefore, while supply lasts, we are offering half price adoptions on these sweet babies. See who is available on our website, Facebook or come by and meet them for yourself!

Essential Oils Toxic to Cats?

Essential oils have been increasing in popularity for alternative medical therapy in humans. While oils are useful in healing and affecting mentation, they are powerful and can cause a wide variety of adverse effects. The largest problem with essential oils is that they may contain contaminants or adulterants that make more serious issues arise. For this reason, one should only use therapeutic grade oils from reputable companies and verify the quality of oils before using them.

Animals have sensitive senses of smell, so in most cases it is best to use oils that are diluted and always provide an escape route. If a pet does not like an oil do not enforce its use. Cats are particularly at risk for oil reactions and in most cases the use of oils on cats is not recommended unless the oil is highly diluted.

Some essential oils can cause liver and kidney toxicity. Cats use a different system in their liver to detoxify and are particularly sensitive to essential oils that contain polyphenolic compounds. These are so-called "hot" oils like cinnamon, oregano, clove, wintergreen, thyme and birch, which are oils that should be avoided in cats. Cats should not receive tea tree oil (melaleuca) oil, and never put essential oils into the ear canal as they can damage cats' delicate ear drums and nerves. Care is needed around eyes as well. Always wash your hands after handling oils to prevent accidentally exposing you cat.



Online Shopping at Feline Specialties



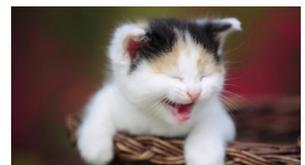
Our online shop is open and, well—online! Check out our online store for all of your cat's essentials. The store is full of over the counter medications, prescription medications and flea and tick prevention products that are shipped directly to you. We especially like our online compounding pharmacy. Most any medication can be compounded into a flavorful liquid or soft chew. The soft chews have been VERY well received by our feline patients and come in 5 different flavors. Some medications can even be compounded into easy to apply transdermal gels.

Even your pets prescription food can be ordered through our online store and is shipped directly to your home. If you choose autoship, then shipping is free! Look out Amazon Prime!

Thought for Today

Why don't cats play poker in the jungle?

Too many cheetahs.



Hospital Hours

Monday - Friday 7:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am- noon

Sunday 9:00am—9:30am for drop offs and pick ups

9702 Riverside Dr.

Contact Information

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E-mail for Dr. O’Cain: jocain@felinespecialties.com

Emergency Information

For after hours emergency contact:

Oklahoma Veterinary Specialists (OVS)

(918) 299-4900

1501 West 78th St South (west of Tulsa Hills and north of Main Event)

Animal Emergency Clinic (AEC)

(918) 665-0508

4055 S 102nd E AVE (west of highway 169 at the 41st Street exit)

