

# What to do if you find kittens



## Are the kittens visibly sick or injured?

**YES:** Contact an animal welfare organization or shelter that can help you assess whether the kittens need intervention. If that isn't possible, take the kittens to a veterinarian immediately.

**NO:** Estimate the kittens' age by how they look.



Avoid handling the kittens and watch them from a distance for 10-12 hours. If the kittens seem healthy and content, mom will usually return when she feels it's safe. If the kittens are exposed, attempt to find a safe hiding spot nearby, move them and monitor them from a safe distance for 10-12 hours.

Great! Kittens this age usually don't need much from people or their mom. As long as they are not in immediate danger, you can contact a local provider to schedule spay/neuter surgery.

## Did mom return?

### YES

Great! Leave kittens alone for now. When the kittens are eight or more weeks old they can be scheduled for spay/neuter surgery along with mom.

### NO

These kittens may need your help and you'd make a great rescuer. If you can't foster them yourself, contact a local animal welfare group for guidance.

**Taking newborn kittens to your local shelter should be a last resort.** Many animal shelters can't provide the kind of around-the-clock care that kittens need. In fact, within a few hours of arriving at many shelters, young kittens are at risk of being killed.

The best way to help most kittens is to leave them with their mother, and then when they are more than eight weeks old, contact your local shelter for spay/neuter resources.

