



# Fading Kitten Protocol

**Fading Kitten Syndrome is a life threatening emergency in which a kitten, sometime one that was previously healthy, “crashes” and begins to fade away. If not dealt with immediately, it can result in death.**

## Symptoms

- Low Body Temperature – the kitten feels cool or cold to the touch
- Extreme Lethargy - not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet
- Gasping for breath
- Meowing/Crying out constantly

Fading Kitten Syndrome is generally caused by either **Hypothermia** (being too cold) and/or **Hypoglycemia** (not enough blood sugar).

**IF YOU SEE THESE SYMPTOMS, IMMEDIATELY TAKE THE FOLLOWING STEPS IN THIS EXACT ORDER.**

## Step One: Get The Kitten Warm

- **Immediately** wrap the kitten up in a towel like a burrito leaving their face exposed only. Their whole body, tail, ears, and paws should be in the towel, only nose and mouth exposed.
- **Do not take the kitten out of the towel** to adjust them, check on them, etc. - this is very important! Every time you take them out you will make them cold again, even if it is only for a second.
- Wrap a **heating pad** turned onto \*low\* around the burrito towel (to avoid burns) as an extra source of heat. Secure it around the towel so it stays in place.

## Step Two: Get Their Blood Sugar Up

- Mix a few tablespoons of sugar in warm water. Stir well to dissolve the sugar - you want as much sugar content in the solution as possible without making it too thick (it should still be runny)
- Using a syringe or your finger give **3 drops every 3 minutes** into the mouth. Set a timer - you must do this **exactly every 3 minutes** to effectively raise their blood sugar. Repeat until the kitten improves. **This may take hours, don't give up!**
- If they aren't swallowing, rub it on the kitten's tongue or gums. Do not put it down their throat.

## Step Three: Alert the DAS Foster Team

- Reach out to the veterinary team via Anippanion, or VCA staff through MyVCA, to alert them of the situation. They will give you the same advice here, but you can keep them updated on any changes to their condition.
- Email [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov) to inform them of the situation. The medical team may want to see your kitten the following day.

Keep in mind, even with all the love and attention and perfect treatment of this condition, some kittens will still not make it. Please do not blame yourself during this difficult time. You gave this kitten a far better chance of survival than they would have without you. Take comfort that **they knew love and compassion because of you.**