



# 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 by texting **FOSTER** to **866-603-3692**. They will give you the same advice here, but you can keep them updated on any changes to their condition.
- Email **DASFoster@dallas.gov** to inform them of the situation. The medical team may want to see your kitten the following day.



**See reverse for more resources**



# *Fading Kitten Protocol*

Please be prepared for the possibility that, despite your best efforts, the kitten may not survive. Fading Kitten Syndrome has a high mortality rate, even with intervention. Please do not blame yourself during this difficult time. Your care, attention, and dedication give these kittens a far greater chance of survival than they would have otherwise. No matter the outcome, you are making a difference. Because of you, this kitten experienced warmth, safety, and compassion.

## **More information on Fading Kitten Syndrome**

### **VIDEO: How to Save a Fading Kitten (Foster the Felines)**



### **What is Fading Kitten Syndrome and Why Do So Many Foster Kittens Die from it? (Catster)**



### **Fading Kitten Syndrome (Colorado Animal Rescue)**



### **Fading Kitten Syndrome (Pet MD)**

