

# D90 Foster Handbook

## *Kitten Fosters*



[BeDallas90.org](http://BeDallas90.org)



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Thank you so much for fostering a shelter pet! You are helping us save lives. Here's what you'll find in this packet.

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# Who to Contact

## General Questions & Emergency Contacts



To reach the foster team, please email [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov)

If you are having an emergency between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m., please call 214-671-1928

If you are having an emergency after 6 p.m. and you live in the city of Dallas, please call 311. If you live outside of city limits, please call **469-936-0101**.

*All other emergencies will have to wait until 9:00am or if you choose to take your foster pet to an Emergency Veterinarian, you are welcome to do so. Please note that the City of Dallas is unable to reimburse medical expenses.*

## Medical Questions

Please text FOSTER to **866-603-3692** to opt into text messages with our foster medical team. After opting in, please send us your pet's name, A number, a description of symptoms, and photos (if applicable).

*By texting Foster to 866-603-3692, you agree to receive promotional messages sent via an autodialer. You also agree to the terms of service ([website.com/terms-and-conditions/](http://website.com/terms-and-conditions/)) and privacy policy ([website.com/privacy-policy/](http://website.com/privacy-policy/)). This agreement isn't a condition of any purchase. Message frequency varies. Message and data rates may apply. Reply STOP to opt out; HELP for more information.*

*All other emergencies will have to wait until 9:00am the next day, or you can choose to take your foster to an emergency veterinarian. Please note that the City of Dallas is unable to reimburse for medical expenses.*

## Can't Keep Your Foster Pet?

If you cannot keep your foster any longer and need to surrender them back to the shelter, please book an appointment at [\*\*www.das.as.me/fostersurrender\*\*](http://www.das.as.me/fostersurrender)



# Basics of Kitten Fostering

Kitten fostering can be fun and rewarding, but it also comes with challenges. Here are some key tips to remember.

**Dallas Animal Services foster cats and kittens must be kept indoors at all times.**

- **Kittens cannot regulate their body temperature on their own.** They need to be kept in a small room (a bathroom or closet works) with a heating pad that is covered with a blanket or towel to prevent them from overheating.
- Kittens need to be fed on a strict schedule. See **Bottle Feeding Kittens** instructions on page 5.
- **Kittens should be kept separate from all other pets.** Kittens are extremely fragile in the first few weeks of their life and have not developed immunity from their initial vaccines yet.
- Limit handling in the first few weeks to feeding and cleaning times only. Kittens need plenty of rest and won't know how to crawl or play for the first few weeks. Once they start exhibiting interest in play and affection, give them plenty of attention and opportunities to learn. Cuddling is a great opportunity to build their trust with humans, though **we recommend wrapping kittens in a towel any time you handle them** to ensure they are staying warm and clean.
- Kitten fostering can be daunting, and even experienced fosters can run into new challenges. We strongly recommend joining our **D90 Foster Facebook** group so you can connect with other fosters to ask advice, swap supplies, and get support or encouragement.
- **IF YOUR KITTEN FEELS COLD AND/OR APPEARS LETHARGIC, PLEASE IMMEDIATELY TAKE ACTION WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 5: FADING KITTEN PROTOCOL.**

**The Kitten Care Resources handout has links to resources with comprehensive tips on all kitten concerns. We strongly recommend reading all of these guides to ensure you are providing the best care!**

# Kitten Foster Tool Kit



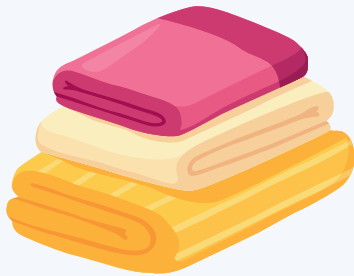
KMR Kitten formula



Baby or pet wipes



Bottle, syringe, and a variety of nipple attachments



Towels and blankets



Newspaper or puppy pads to line your floor



Kitten food (once old enough to transition from KMR)



Heating pad



Travel kennel



Non-clumping cat litter



# Your First Day as a Foster

Here is a list of everything you should do in the first few days of taking your foster pet home. The sooner you get these done, the easier your foster experience will be!

## Sign up for a MyImpact account

If you haven't already, sign up for a MyImpact account. Go to <https://bit.ly/dasmyimpact> to get started.

## Log into your Adopets dashboard

You should have received an email from the foster team with your login information. Please confirm your foster pet is visible at [BeDallas90.org/pets](https://BeDallas90.org/pets). If they are not visible, **please email [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov)**. Adopets works better on desktop than on mobile, so if you're having issues please try switching to a desktop computer first! View instructions for using Adopets on **page 17**.

## Bookmark the Foster Dashboard and Kitten Care page

For quick reference to the handbook and other resources on-the-go, add **[BeDallas90.org/fosterdashboard](https://BeDallas90.org/fosterdashboard)** and **[BeDallas90.org/kittencare](https://BeDallas90.org/kittencare)** to your favorites or bookmarks!

## Join the D90 Foster Facebook Page

Get support and answers fast from fellow fosters! Share photos, swap supplies, and get advice from seasoned pros. Get connected at **[www.facebook.com/groups/d90fosters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/d90fosters)**

## Follow us on social media!

We are primarily active on Facebook and Instagram. Follow us at **[facebook.com/dallasanimalservices](https://facebook.com/dallasanimalservices)** and **[@dallasanimalservices](https://instagram.com/dallasanimalservices)** on Instagram.

## Keep an eye on your email

Check your email for communications about your foster pet, the Foster Newsletter, virtual Foster Town Hall meetings, and upcoming foster adoption events.



# Bottle Feeding Kittens

- Follow the instructions on the **Kitten Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart** included in this packet. The younger the kittens are, the more often they will need to be fed. Do not force feed or overfeed your kittens as it can cause them to aspirate.
- Use 1 part KMR formula to 2 parts water. A part is whatever you are using to measure with. For example, if you're using a tablespoon for measuring, this would mean 1 tablespoon of powdered KMR and 2 tablespoons of water. Kittens cannot digest cow's milk. Please only use formula.
- Mix the formula well with water to ensure there are no clumps of dry formula. To heat the formula, place in a warm cup of water. Test the formula on the inside of your wrist to ensure it is warm but not too hot or cold for the kitten to eat.
- Poke a small hole in the nipple of the bottle so that milk comes out in drips when you turn it upside down. Some kittens might need to be fed with a syringe and smaller nipple instead, especially in the first week of their life.
- If a kitten doesn't want to eat, wait 20 minutes and try again. If your kitten is not eating, if they continue to refuse food, contact our medical team.



**The Kitten Care Resources handout has links to resources with comprehensive tips on all kitten concerns. We strongly recommend reading all of these guides to ensure you are providing the best care!**

**Questions? Email [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov).**



# 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](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.**





# Medical Concerns

## Medical Emergencies

If you have an emergency medical situation you will now be required to drop off and come back to pick up. Early in the day, these will likely be same-day pickups unless it's determined to be Emergency Rescue or Rescue Only, but later in the day, it will likely be a next-day pickup. Emergency medical drop-off is available between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily.

If the medical team determines when the pet arrives that it is not an emergency, pets will be treated in order of urgency.

Once the pet has been treated, we will reach out to you and let you know when you can pick up.

If there is an emergency outside of DAS hours, you can bring your foster pet to an emergency vet, but **we are unable to pay for the treatment or reimburse fosters for treatment through a third party.**



## Symptoms to Report

- Kitten not gaining weight
- Abnormal stool (please refer to the **Kitten Stool Chart** on page 11), diarrhea or constipation
- Nose or eye discharge
- Abnormal gum color - gums should be pink. Gums appearing pale, dark red, blue, or purple require immediate attention.
- Dark residue in ears and/or scratching at ears
- Vomiting
- Dark yellow or bloody urine
- Anything else you have concerns about - never be afraid to ask a question!

## Ready for Spay/Neuter?

Pets are ready for surgery at 8 weeks or 2 lbs, but we recommend prescheduling your appointment once your pet is 7 weeks old. Schedule a surgery appointment at: [www.das.as.me/spayneuter](http://www.das.as.me/spayneuter)

## Vaccines

Once 4 weeks of age, schedule an appointment for vaccines every 2 weeks: [www.das.as.me/fosterboosters](http://www.das.as.me/fosterboosters)

## Deceased Foster Pet

Contact DAS Foster Team at: [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov) to alert the team and return the pet's remains.



# Kitten Care Resources

## Kitten Care

Weaning Kitten Care

<https://bit.ly/weaningkittencare>

Daily Care Chart

<https://bit.ly/dailykittencare>

Bottle Feeding Chart

<https://bit.ly/bottlefeedingchart>

Bottle Feeding Fast Facts

<https://bit.ly/bottlefeedingfastfacts>

Bottle Feeding

<https://bit.ly/kittenladybottlefeeding>

Kitten Age Chart - English

<https://bit.ly/kittenagechartenglish>

Kitten Age Chart - Spanish

<https://bit.ly/kittenagechartspanish>

Kitten Stool Chart

<https://bit.ly/kittenstoolchart>

## More Resources

Found Kittens Handout - English

<https://bit.ly/foundkittensenglish>

Found Kittens Handout - Spanish

<https://bit.ly/foundkittensspanish>

Socializing Kittens

<https://bit.ly/socializingkittens>

## Kitten Care Videos

Foster Kitten Set Up

<https://bit.ly/fosterkittensetup>

Bottle Feeding

<https://bit.ly/kittenladybottlefeeding>

Bottle Feeding Troubleshooting

<https://bit.ly/bottlefeedingproblems>

Syringe Feeding

<https://bit.ly/syringefeeding>

Flea Baths

<https://bit.ly/kittenfleabaths>

Stimulating Kittens

<https://bit.ly/stimulatingkittens>

Litter Training for Baby Kittens

<https://bit.ly/littertrainingkittens>

Dealing with Diarrhea

<https://bit.ly/kittendiarrhea>

Weaning Kittens

<https://bit.ly/howtoweankittens>



# Kitten Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart

Estimated Kitten Age (weeks)	Kitten Weight (lbs, oz)	Kitten Weight (grams)	Daily Caloric Requirement*	Amount of Formula Per Day (ml)**	Amount Per Feeding (ml)*	Approximate Number of Feedings Per Day***
< 1 week	2 oz	57 g	11 kcal	15 ml	2 ml	7
	3 oz	85 g	17 kcal	23 ml	3 ml	7
	4 oz	113 g	23 kcal	31 ml	5 ml	7
1 week	5 oz	142 g	28 kcal	38 ml	6 ml	7
	6 oz	170 g	34 kcal	46 ml	7 ml	7
	7 oz	198 g	40 kcal	54 ml	8 ml	7
	8 oz	227 g	45 kcal	61 ml	9 ml	7
2 weeks	9 oz	255 g	51 kcal	69 ml	10 ml	7
	10 oz	283 g	57 kcal	77 ml	11 ml	7
	11 oz	312 g	62 kcal	84 ml	12 ml	6-7
3 weeks <sup>+</sup>	12 oz	340 g	68 kcal	92 ml	14 ml	6-7
	13 oz	369 g	74 kcal	100 ml	15 ml	6
	14 oz	397 g	79 kcal	107 ml	16 ml	5
	15 oz	425 g	85 kcal	115 ml	17 ml	5
4 weeks <sup>+</sup>	16 oz (1 lb)	454 g	91 kcal	123 ml	18 ml	5
	1 lb, 1 oz	482 g	96 kcal	130 ml	19 ml	4
	1 lb, 2 oz	510 g	102 kcal	138 ml	20 ml	4
	1 lb, 3 oz	539 g	108 kcal	146 ml	22 ml	4
5 weeks <sup>+</sup>	1 lb, 4 oz	567 g	113 kcal	153 ml	23 ml	4

\* The daily caloric requirement was calculated using 20 kcal/100 g body weight and the amount per feeding using 4 ml/100 g body weight. The energy requirement is ~20-26 kcal/100g body weight daily and the maximum comfortable stomach capacity is ~4 ml/100 g body weight.<sup>1</sup>

\*\* Concentration 0.74 kcal/ml. Most commercial kitten milk replacers in the US provide less than 1 kcal/ml (0.74 kcal/ml), acting to increase the volume of milk required to meet caloric needs. This can be problematic in terms of the number and size of feedings given relative to stomach capacity and more likely to result in gastrointestinal disturbances. This may also account for why bottle fed kittens grow slower than kittens that nurse off a mother.

\*\*\* As the kitten is adjusting well to the milk and the feeding volume, you may be able to increase the volume fed to help reduce the number of feedings per day. Be aware that exceeding the stomach capacity (amount per feeding) may put the kitten at risk of aspiration, vomiting, diarrhea, and gas build-up in the stomach and intestines.

<sup>+</sup> Kittens at this age (3 ½ -5 weeks) are usually eating some solid food, decreasing the amount of milk replacer required to meet daily caloric requirements. This may result in less frequent milk feedings.

**Cited reference:**

<sup>1</sup> Lawler, D. F. "Neonatal and pediatric care of the puppy and kitten." *Theriogenology*, vol. 70, no.3, 2008, pp. 384-392.

**Additional references:**

Cline, Jill. "Cattery Management and Nutrition of the Queen and Her Offspring." *Management of Pregnant and Neonatal Dogs, Cats, and Exotic Pets*, edited by Cheryl Lopate, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2012, pp.15-24.

Zambelli, Daniele. "Feline Neonatal Physiology, Behavior, and Socialization." *Management of Pregnant and Neonatal Dogs, Cats, and Exotic Pets*, edited by Cheryl Lopate, John Wiley and Sons, Inc., 2012, pp.145-158.



Maddie's  
Fund

6150 Stoneridge Mall Road, Suite 125 | Pleasanton, CA 94588  
925.310.5450 | MaddiesFund.org



# Fast Facts

## Kitten Stool Chart

Stool Color	Notes	Action
Brown	Normal	No additional action needed.
Mucous	Clear (poss. slight yellow or white) slimy substance. Bowel irritation. Possible internal parasites.	Needs attention.
Bloody - red	Red blood seen in stool or irritation at rectum or anus. Bowel irritation. Viral or bacterial infection.	See vet ASAP – immediately if lots of blood.
Black	Tarry; possibly with large gelatinous clots. Bleeding in upper GI tract. Exception is meconium which is very dark – possibly with greenish tinge.	See vet immediately if not meconium. Meconium is seen at 1st defecation at 1 or 2 days old.
Orange	May indicate liver or gallbladder issue.	See vet.
Yellow	With a very foul smell may indicate coccidia. Can be bacterial overgrowth/imbalance.	See vet.
Greenish	Severe bacterial infection.	Needs treatment.
Gray	Overfeeding; lack of probiotics or bile.	Reduce food intake and/or frequency; add probiotics.
White	Severe bacterial imbalance or lack of flora. Life-threatening!	Give probiotics and seek veterinary care immediately.

[www.KittenCoalition.org](http://www.KittenCoalition.org) • [www.Facebook.com/KittenCoalition](https://www.Facebook.com/KittenCoalition) • [info@kittencoalition.org](mailto:info@kittencoalition.org)

### Consistency Notes:

- Any stool softer than toothpaste consistency is cause for concern. Kittens with liquid diarrhea are at risk of dehydration and death. Seek treatment immediately.
- Kittens straining to defecate or who have not defecated for more than two days may be constipated and need to be seen by a veterinarian.





# Kitten Health Tracker

Tracking your kitten’s weight and stool/urine is incredibly important for monitoring their health. We recommend weighing your foster kitten a minimum of once per day, at the same time each day. For kittens younger than 3 weeks old, **we recommend weighing each kitten before and after each feeding.** Use a kitchen scale to track your kitten’s weight in grams for precise measurement.

## Kitten Name & Animal ID Number:

Date/ Time	Weight before feeding	Weight after feeding	Stool / Urine output

# Kitten and Puppy Bottle Feeding Problems and Solutions Chart

## Do's and Dont's

- ✓ Weigh kittens or puppies daily
- ✓ Warm milk to 95-100°F before feeding
- ✓ Use the Maddie's Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart for kittens or puppies
- ✓ Burp your kitten or puppy after every feeding
- ✓ Stimulate orphaned kittens or puppies to pee and poop
- ✗ Never feed a chilled kitten or puppy
- ✗ Never feed a kitten or puppy like a human baby; their feet should be toward the ground
- ✗ Never use a nipple tip that extends past your kitten's or puppy's tongue
- ✗ Don't use homemade milk-replacers long-term; they are only for emergency uses

NOTE: Kittens or puppies can have health problems directly related to the bottle feeding process. If they are otherwise healthy, some of these problems can be resolved at home. If none of the solutions below work, if they appear to be sick, or if any of their littermates have died unexpectedly, contact your foster caregiver immediately. Delayed veterinary care could lead to a negative outcome or longer recovery time.

What You See	Possible Causes	Solution
Coughing, Difficult or Labored Breathing	Inhalation (aspiration) of milk into lungs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If they cough for more than a few minutes or have trouble breathing, contact your foster coordinator immediately to arrange for emergency veterinary care.</li> </ul>
Not Taking the Bottle	Chilled kitten or puppy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See the <u>Maddie's Kitten and Puppy Temperature Chart</u> for normal body temperature.</li> <li>• Warm them up slowly with a Snuggle Safe® disc, hot water bottles, or rice packs.</li> <li>• Wrap the heat source in a towel to slow down warming and prevent burning of the kitten or puppy.</li> </ul>
	Milk is too cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Warm milk to 95-100°F using a warm water bath; avoid warming up in the microwave.</li> </ul>
	Not hungry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If kitten or puppy is alert and responsive and acting okay otherwise, use a cotton swab to rub white corn syrup on the gums. Wait 30 mins - 1 hour and try feeding again.</li> </ul>
	Sick, lethargic, and/or low blood sugar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a cotton swab to rub white corn syrup on the gums.</li> <li>• Contact your foster coordinator to arrange for immediate or emergency veterinary care.</li> </ul>
	Additional advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If your kitten or puppy goes for longer than 6 hours without taking the bottle, contact your foster coordinator to arrange for emergency veterinary care.</li> </ul>
Diarrhea	Overfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weigh the kitten or puppy.</li> <li>• Verify the recommended food amount on the Maddie's Bottle Feeding Charts.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• If feeding the right amount, try smaller amounts more frequently (every 2-3 hours).</li> </ul>
	Milk replacer too concentrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If using powdered milk replacer, first double-check the label directions for mixing.</li> <li>• Temporarily dilute the milk replacer 50:50 with Pedialyte® for 24 hours.</li> </ul>
	Unclean bottle or nipple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean with dish soap and warm water between uses.</li> <li>• Sterilize in boiling water before first use, once every 24 - 48 hours, or between litters.</li> </ul>
	Sour milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refrigerate leftover milk replacer in clean, closed containers for no more than 24 hours.</li> <li>• Throw milk replacer away if left out at room temperature for longer than 1 hour, previously warmed up, or contaminated with saliva.</li> </ul>



What You See	Possible Causes	Solution
Diarrhea	Digestive system has not adjusted to the milk replacer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporarily dilute the milk replacer 50:50 with Pedialyte® for 24 hours.</li> <li>Add a pinch of probiotic powder, Fortiflora®, to the bottle.</li> <li>Swap to a different brand of milk replacer.</li> </ul>
	Intestinal parasites (worms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact your foster coordinator to discuss de-worming.</li> </ul>
Vomiting	Overfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weigh the kitten or puppy.</li> <li>Verify the recommended food amount on the Maddie's Bottle Feeding Charts.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>If feeding the right amount, try smaller amounts more frequently (every 2-3 hours).</li> </ul>
	Milk replacer too concentrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If using powdered milk replacer, first double-check the label directions for mixing.</li> <li>Temporarily dilute the milk replacer 50:50 with Pedialyte® for 24 hours.</li> </ul>
	Milk coming out too fast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milk is coming out too fast if: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is dripping faster than 1-2 drops per second.</li> <li>It is seen coming out of the kitten's or puppy's nose.</li> <li>The kitten or puppy is swallowing more frequently than every 2-3 suckles.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Get a new nipple. Poke a hole in the tip with a hot needle or cut a snip in an "X" shape. See <a href="#">Maddie's How to Bottle Feed Kittens and Puppies</a> for a video on how to do this.</li> </ul>
	Milk too cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warm milk to 95-100°F using a warm water bath; avoid warming up in the microwave.</li> </ul>
	Unclean bottle or nipple	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean with dish soap and warm water between uses.</li> <li>Sterilize in boiling water before first use, once every 24 - 48 hours, or between litters.</li> </ul>
	Sour milk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refrigerate leftover milk replacer in clean, closed containers for no more than 24 hours.</li> <li>Throw milk replacer away if left out at room temperature for longer than 1 hour, previously warmed up, or contaminated with saliva.</li> </ul>
Constipation	Milk replacer too concentrated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If using powdered milk replacer, first double-check the label directions for mixing.</li> <li>Temporarily dilute the milk replacer 50:50 with Pedialyte® for 24 hours.</li> </ul>
	Dehydration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the Dehydration section below.</li> </ul>
	Orphans: Need stimulation to pee and poop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check out: <a href="#">How to Stimulate an Orphaned Kitten or Puppy to Pee and Poop.</a></li> </ul>
	Additional advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swap to a different brand of milk replacer.</li> <li>Temporarily dilute the milk replacer 50:50 with Pedialyte® for 24 hours.</li> <li>Kittens and puppies normally poop once every 1 - 2 days. If they haven't pooped in 2 days or more, are crying, or straining, contact your foster coordinator immediately. An enema may be needed.</li> <li>Don't give mineral oil to your kitten or puppy (by mouth or by bottle).</li> </ul>
Distended Belly	Overfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weigh the kitten or puppy.</li> <li>Verify the recommended food amount on the Maddie's Bottle Feeding Charts.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>If feeding the right amount, try smaller amounts more frequently (every 2-3 hours).</li> </ul>
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What You See	Possible Causes	Solution
Distended Belly	Milk too cold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Warm milk to 95–100°F using a warm water bath; avoid warming up in the microwave.</li> </ul>
	Chilled kitten or puppy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the <a href="#">Maddie’s Kitten and Puppy Temperature Chart</a> for normal body temperature.</li> <li>Warm them up slowly with a Snuggle Safe® disc, hot water bottles, or rice packs.</li> <li>Wrap the heat source in a towel to slow down warming and prevent burning of the kitten or puppy.</li> </ul>
	Swallowing air while nursing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When bottle feeding, position the kitten or puppy with their feet down (sternal), and with head and neck stretched upward and forward. Don’t let the neck extend too far back.</li> <li>Avoid air in the nipple by holding the bottle upright; stopping feeding before the amount of milk in the bottle is low; and not shaking the bottle, creating bubbles.</li> <li>Burp your kitten or puppy after every feeding.</li> </ul>
	Constipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the Constipation section above.</li> </ul>
	Orphans: Need stimulation to pee and poop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check out: <a href="#">How to Stimulate an Orphaned Kitten or Puppy to Pee and Poop.</a></li> </ul>
	Intestinal parasites (worms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact your foster coordinator to discuss de-worming.</li> </ul>
	Fluid in the abdomen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact your foster coordinator to arrange for immediate or emergency veterinary care.</li> </ul>
Restless and Crying	Hungry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weigh the kitten or puppy.</li> <li>Verify the recommended food amount on the <a href="#">Maddie’s Bottle Feeding Charts</a>.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>If feeding the right amount, try smaller amounts more frequently (every 2–3 hours).</li> </ul>
	Uncomfortable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Check for constipation; see the constipation section above.</li> <li>Contact your foster coordinator to arrange for immediate or emergency veterinary care.</li> </ul>
Weight Loss or Lack of Weight Gain	Underfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weigh the kitten or puppy.</li> <li>Verify the recommended food amount on the <a href="#">Maddie’s Bottle Feeding Charts</a>.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>If feeding the right amount, try smaller amounts more frequently (every 2–3 hours).</li> </ul>
	Milk replacer too dilute	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If using powdered milk replacer, first double-check the label directions for mixing.</li> <li>If diluting the milk replacer, cut back on the amount of Pedialyte® or water added.</li> <li>Try feeding your kitten or puppy more frequently (every 2–3 hours).</li> </ul>
	Fading Kitten or Puppy Syndrome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the kitten or puppy appears to be sick or lethargic, or does not start putting on weight within 1–2 days of trying the above solutions, contact your foster coordinator to arrange for immediate or emergency veterinary care.</li> </ul>
Dehydration	Underfeeding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weigh the kitten or puppy.</li> <li>Verify the recommended food amount on the <a href="#">Maddie’s Bottle Feeding Charts</a>.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>If feeding the right amount, try smaller amounts more frequently (every 2–3 hours).</li> </ul>
	Not Taking the Bottle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the Not Taking the Bottle section above.</li> </ul>
	Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the Diarrhea section above.</li> </ul>
	Vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See the Vomiting section above.</li> </ul>
	Additional Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dehydration is difficult to assess in a very young kitten or puppy (0–4 weeks).</li> <li>Temporarily dilute milk replacer 50:50 with Pedialyte® to increase fluid intake.</li> <li>Contact your foster coordinator to arrange for immediate or emergency veterinary care.</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Maddie’s Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart for [kittens](#) or [puppies](#).







# Infectious Diseases

We often compare animal shelters to child daycare centers because of their ability to harbor contagious illness. To keep pets safe, DAS follows disease mitigation best practices, including vaccinating pets immediately at intake, thorough cleaning procedures, and the use of universal precautions, but it is still possible that your foster pet may have been exposed to an illness either before arriving at DAS or during their time here. Many illnesses take several weeks after exposure to become symptomatic, so we ask that you keep an eye out for symptoms of common feline illnesses, which are listed below.

If you see signs of these illnesses in your foster pet, **please text FOSTER to 866-603-3692.**

## Feline Panleukopenia

Feline parvovirus (FPV) causes an often deadly disease known as feline distemper or feline panleukopenia, which is **a highly contagious disease in young, unvaccinated cats.** FPV most commonly occurs in kittens between 3 and 6 months of age. Most cats greater than 1-year-old are immune because of prior infection (that produced no clinical signs) or vaccination and many kittens younger than 6-8 weeks are protected by antibodies they received from their mother prior to birth. Adult cats may show no clinical signs of FPV; some kittens may die within 12 hours after showing little to no signs. More often, however, there is **fever, depression, lack of appetite, vomiting, and severe dehydration.** Bloody diarrhea can also occur later. Treatment consists of supportive care, including fluid therapy, and medications that decrease stomach acid, stop vomiting, and treat secondary bacterial infections may also be given. Kittens that survive for longer than 5 days usually recover, but recovery may take several weeks. Older kittens usually have a milder form of the disease and a better prognosis.

## Ringworm

Ringworm (feline dermatophytosis) is among the most frequently occurring skin disorders affecting cats. This fungal infection typically produces a circular itchy rash on the infected animal. While ringworm can spread to other animals and even to humans, it is easily treated topically through antifungal medications. If the lesions are present in multiple areas of a cat's skin, a full-body rinse or dip may be used. It can take up to six weeks of repeated treatments to completely cure a feline ringworm infection.



# Accessing Adopets

**Adopets is the platform we use to network our adoptable pets in the shelter and in foster homes. As a foster, you can quickly update your foster's photos and respond to adoption inquiries through this site.**

## Creating Your Account

Once you have been paired with your foster pet, our team will invite you via email to create a profile. Click the "Register" button to get started. You will now be able to access your dashboard.

## Uploading Photos

To upload photos, click on your foster pet. A popup will zoom out with three pink dots in the upper right hand corner. Click on those dots. In the list that drops down, select Edit Pet Profile. Here you will be able to upload images to your foster pet's profile. Upload them in the order in which you wish them to appear. The first photo should be a clear, well-lit photo that shows your foster pet's face. Videos can be uploaded just below the photos. Adopets requires a YouTube or Vimeo link. Upload your video to YouTube or Vimeo, ensure the privacy settings for the video are set to public viewing, then copy/paste the sharing link into the indicated field.

## Responding to Adoption Inquiries

Dallas Animal Services has an open adoption policy. Please respond to adoption inquiries in the order they are received. If you respond to an interested adopter and they don't respond within 48 hours, feel free to move down the list to the next interested adopter. To respond to interested adopters or archive those who have not responded within 48 hours, click the "Actions" button.

**NOTE: There is a limit to applications for fosters, please review applications DAILY and archive old applications.**

**Once you APPROVE an adopter in Adopets, the DAS Foster Team will initiate the adoption paperwork!**

## Troubleshooting

Adopets help chat is usually very responsive. If you reach out to the chat team and still need help, please reach out to the foster team at [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov). Find the Adopets FAQ here: <https://tinyurl.com/chr66dx4>

**Found an adopter for your foster? Approve their application in Adopets and email [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov)**





# Adoption Marketing

The final step in fostering kittens is finding them a home! Thankfully, kittens are always in high demand. Here are some tips to help you quickly find them a loving adopter.

## Photos and Video

If you have a smart phone or digital camera, taking photos of your foster kitten is simple. We recommend putting them on a clean blanket and dangling a toy to grab their attention and snap a picture when they are looking up at the camera. You can also add videos to your pet's profile! If you're savvy with video editing, this is a great opportunity to show off your foster pet's personality. You may upload a YouTube or Vimeo link to your pet's Adopets profile.

The fastest way to get your photos and videos uploaded is to upload them yourself in Adopets! We can also assist with uploads, but as we receive hundreds of emails each day, please allow 48 hours for turnaround. Email photos and video to **DASPhotos@dallas.gov**.

## Adoption Bios

A short bio can greatly improve your foster pet's chances of getting adopted quickly. Here's a template for kitten adoption bios. Or, use the Petsmart Charities Rescue Writer AI adoption bio generator at <https://rescuewriter.ai/>.

Hi! My name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am a [brave/feisty/shy/sweet/cuddly] kitten ready to find a loving family. My favorite activity is [napping/playing/exploring/bird watching]. In my foster home, I live and get along with [kids/other cats/dogs/small animals]. I can't wait to meet you! To reach out to my foster family about adopting me, hit the "I'm Interested" button.

Email your foster's bio to **DASBios@dallas.gov**. Unfortunately this cannot be updated in Adopets.

## Social Media

Chances are, someone connected with you on social media is looking for a kitten, or knows someone who is! Post about your foster kitten on all social media platforms you use, as well as Nextdoor or any places you connect with neighbors or coworkers.

*Be sure to include a link to their adoption profile on Adopets!*

**Found an adopter for your foster? Email [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov)**





# Finalizing Adoptions

## After the adoption has been finalized through the DAS Foster Team - Handing off your foster pet to their adopter

Until the animal has been fully processed in the DAS system, meaning the adopter has signed all paperwork and the animal has been spayed or neutered, the animal is still the property of DAS. This means that the animal cannot go to the adopter's household. Once paperwork has been processed, a Foster Parent can either bring the animal to DAS or meet the adopter at another location to transfer ownership. **Remember, if you do not get the approval from the DAS Foster Team or DAS Adoption Team, the animal is not eligible to leave the foster home.** Once your paperwork has been processed, we will send you an email to confirm that you are able to proceed with a hand off of your foster pet to their new adopter.

## What happens next?

If you'd like updates on your foster in their new home, you can ask the adopter for their contact information. However, not all adopters wish to stay in touch. That's okay! It can be difficult to not hear more about the pet you cared for, but the important thing is that they are in a loving home.





# FOSTER MENTORING CALLS

**Need advice? Want support? We got you!**

Adopets Training | Marketing Tips | Events Support  
Training Tips | 1-on-1 Mentoring

**For additional guidance from the fosters who  
have been there, done that...**

**Join the Foster Mentoring / Support Calls!**

**2nd Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m.**

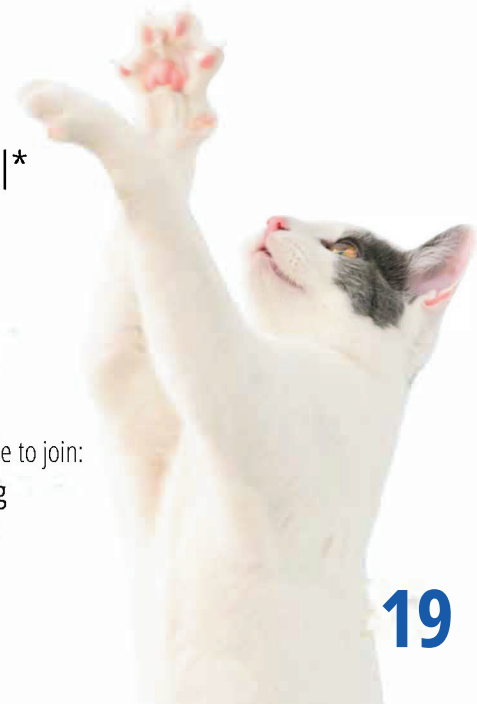
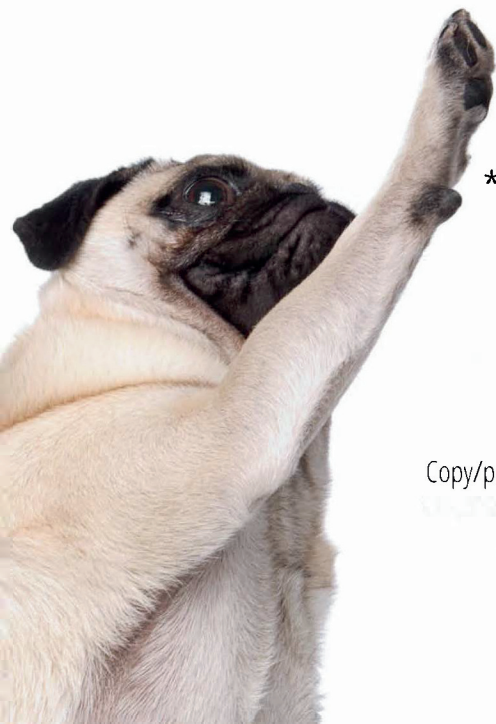
Join via Microsoft Teams

Meeting ID: 240 072 660 36

Passcode: g5VjRk

\*DAS Staff is present on the call as well\*

Copy/past this URL in your browser, then enter the meeting ID and passcode to join:  
<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-teams/join-a-meeting>





# Important Disclosures

## Anti-Harassment Policy

DAS's anti-harassment policy expresses our commitment to maintain a workplace that is free of harassment, so our employees and guests can feel safe and happy. DAS strives to create and maintain a work environment in which people are treated with dignity, decency and respect. In accordance with all federal, state, and local laws, DAS expressly prohibits discrimination or harassment based on race, color, religion, creed, gender, pregnancy, age, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability or handicap, citizenship, marital status, sexual orientation, military or veteran's status, or any other protected classification. DAS expressly forbids and will not tolerate any actions (e.g., words, jokes, comments, or gestures) that unreasonably create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. DAS will take appropriate and immediate action in response to complaints or knowledge of violations of this policy. For purposes of this policy, harassment is any verbal or physical conduct designed to threaten, intimidate, or coerce an employee, coworker, client, volunteer, or any person working for or on behalf of DAS. Anyone engaged in sexual or other unlawful harassment will be subject to release from the Foster Program with DAS. If a Foster Parent or other any other individual who is associated with the Foster Parent (i.e., babysitter or other adults in household, etc.) ("Foster Parent Affiliate") believes they are the victim of harassment or have witnessed harassment of any kind, immediately notify the DAS staff contact with the Foster Team. DAS will not tolerate any retaliation, harassment, or intimidation of any DAS employees or volunteer(s) who makes a complaint under this policy or who assists in a complaint investigation. Any retaliation, harassment, or intimidation by a Foster Parent may result in termination of the Foster Parent's Relationship with DAS. Investigation of reports of harassment will be conducted, and these investigations will be kept as confidential as is practical. Following the investigation, the Foster Parent who filed the complaint will be informed of the findings and the action taken. If, because of the investigation, DAS determines that an employee of DAS, a Foster Parent, an Affiliate, or volunteer has engaged in harassment or illegal discrimination in violation of this policy, DAS will take appropriate corrective measures. Such action may range from counseling to immediate termination of employment or release from the Foster Parent's relationship with DAS, or possible legal action.

## Conflicts of Interest

As a supporter of and volunteer for DAS, a Foster Parent should avoid any outside activity that could negatively affect the independence and objectivity of your judgment, interfere with timely and effective performance of your duties and responsibilities, discredit DAS, or conflict/appear to conflict with DAS' best interest. The success of DAS rests on its reputation and the goodwill of the community. Unless expressly authorized, no outside 4 | Page activity should involve the use of DAS assets, funds, materials, facilities, or time or services of other DAS affiliates. Violations of this policy may result in release from the Foster Parent's relationship with DAS. If a Foster Parent is asked to take part in an activity that conflicts with the vision and philosophies of DAS, or if a potential or actual conflict of interest arises, please reach out to a DAS Foster Team member.

## Adoption Prices and Receiving Payment

All adoption fees are waived for foster pets unless otherwise noted. If an animal has been identified as having an adoption fee associated with them, the adoption process will need to be carried out at the main facility. Payment must be given directly to a DAS employee. A Foster Parent shall never collect money on behalf of DAS or solicit money from potential adopters for any reason.

## Suspected Mistreatment of a Foster Pet

If there is suspected mistreatment of a foster pet, DAS will take appropriate measures to investigate. If you are found to have mistreated an animal, either as a Foster Parent or before joining the program, you will be immediately suspended while we investigate and possibly terminated from our Foster Program. A Foster Team member will contact you if there are any concerns.

**Questions? Email [DASFoster@dallas.gov](mailto:DASFoster@dallas.gov)**



# Disclosures Continued

## Legal Guardianship of Animals

All animals in the foster program are the legal property of DAS until the adoption paperwork has been processed, foster team has sent approval of paperwork received, and the animal has been altered. If adoption paperwork has been received, but the animal has not been spayed or neutered, this animal will still be the property of DAS.

## Health and Temperament

DAS does not guarantee any health or temperament of an animal entering your care. By taking an animal into your home, you are acknowledging that you will accept the risk of taking an animal home with unknown or limited history. All medical and behavioral information will be divulged at the time of pick up. It is the responsibility of the Foster Parent to ensure they are following the proper protocols for keeping their foster pet and family safe.

## Stolen Foster Pet

If you believe a foster pet is stolen while in your custody, please contact the Foster Team immediately. We also ask that you call 911 and create a police report to give any information that you might know about the situation. In addition, follow the same steps that are outlined above in the Lost Foster section. DAS will also consider an animal stolen if we have been unable to contact you, the Foster Parent, and the animal has not yet been spayed or neutered. The Foster Team will send out communication during the fostering process periodically. If at any point during this period we believe you as the Foster Parent have become unresponsive, we will make every attempt to reach you. If at 60 days in the foster home we have been unsuccessful in making contact, DAS staff will proceed by releasing the animal as missing or stolen in the DAS Database. This could prohibit you from being able to foster or potentially adopt from DAS in the future.

## Lost Foster Pet

Sometimes, despite your best efforts, your foster pet may escape from you or your home. If this should happen, please email the DAS Foster Team immediately with the following information:

- The animal's A# (EX: A1234567) and Name (this can be found on your foster pet's paperwork or emails)
- Last known location
- Date and time of escape
- What the situation was when escape occurred (opening the front door, walking the foster pet, etc.)

We suggest that you put up fliers around your neighborhood and place ads on local lost and found websites, Facebook pages (including your personal page and the DAS Volunteer and Foster page), and Nextdoor. Should the animal be picked up by an Animal Services Officer of DAS, the Foster Team will be notified and will contact you immediately. The Foster Team can request that an officer be sent out to survey the area if the animal was lost in the city of Dallas. Always keep the Foster Team informed with any updates by phone or email.