



Canadian Animal Rescue & Extended Shelter (C.A.R.E.S.)
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GUIDELINES FOR KITTEN FOSTERING

The following is to provide you with some helpful information / guidelines for fostering kittens. Please contact your C.A.R.E.S. Representative at any time should you need more information or have any concerns.

Food:

- Fresh water is to be provided daily.
- Dry food is to be provided at all times.
- Canned food is to be given 2 – 3 times daily per kitten (approx. ¼ small tin).
- Dishes must be steel, ceramic or glass (not plastic) and must be cleaned daily
- Do NOT feed any human food, cat treats or milk products.
- Call C.A.R.E.S. representative when you require more food. Please do not wait until you are almost out. Always allow a few days notice.

Shelter:

- Kittens and mom cats must be kept indoors. The mom is not spayed and could easily get pregnant again. We want the kittens to be raised as indoor cats with their mom.
- Kittens should have a separate room where they can be kept safely away from hazards such as electrical cords, plants and chemicals. This also keeps kittens from accidentally getting outside should doors be left open.
- Windows must be kept closed or have secured window screens on them. Blinds should be left up so kittens do not accidentally get tangled in them and the cords must be secured high enough so kittens cannot reach them. Natural daylight is also good for them.

Litter box:

- Use non-clumping litter.
- Scoop box often (2 – 3 times daily).
- Wash litter box and replace litter approx. every 4 days.
- If any of the kittens have repeated “accidents”, train kitten by showing them where the box is by occasionally placing them in the litter box. You may want to temporarily move them into a bathroom for easier cleanup and to make it easier for kittens to find the litter box. Make sure box sides are not too high so that kittens can easily get in the box. Do not use covered (hooded) litter boxes. Please also ensure that the lid on the toilet is down while the kittens are in the bathroom.
- Consult with C.A.R.E.S. representative if problems persist.

Scratching Post:

- Scratching Posts are a must. If kitten scratches on anything but the scratching post, say “NO” in a firm voice, or clap hands to scare away from item kitten is scratching. Take kitten over to the post and put kitten’s paws on the post and move them up and down post in scratching position. Praise kitten when it uses the post
- Consult C.A.R.E.S. representative if you need a scratching post.

Veterinary Care:

Kittens should be seen by the vet as per enclosed Appointment Calendar OR if any of the following conditions are noticed (please also observe the mom cat for these symptoms):

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Persistent sneezing or coughing (possibility of upper respiratory virus)
- Discharge from eyes or nose (possible upper respiratory virus)
- Sores in mouth
- Limping for more than a day
- Lethargic and or not eating or playing
- Scabs or naked areas on body, head or feet

If you notice any of these symptoms or are concerned about any other condition or behavior, call the C.A.R.E.S. representative who will authorize a vet visit, however, in case of an emergency take the cat to vet listed below. Advise vet that kittens belong to C.A.R.E.S.

Willowbrook Animal Hospital
111 – 6375 202nd Street, Langley
Phone: 604.532.1889

The hospital is open 7 days a week from 9am – midnight.

General Information and policies:

- Kittens should not be taken on outings, such as for “show and tell” at school or to friend’s homes etc.
- Use toys when playing with kittens. Never use your hands as a toy or rough house with them with your hands. This teaches kittens the wrong behavior that it is okay to bite and scratch people. This makes them unadoptable!
- Please also have “quiet time” with the kittens, stroking, holding and speaking softly to them. Do not forget to give the mom cat lots of attention as well.
- All foster cats and kittens must be returned to C.A.R.E.S. unless previous arrangements have been made for official adoption or continued fostering.
- If you have friends or colleagues interested in adopting a kitten, please provide your C.A.R.E.S. representative with their names and numbers. The person will then be provided with an adoption application and it will be at C.A.R.E.S. discretion whether the home is the right match for the kitten.