

# Cat 101

## Welcoming your Bottle Babies or Weaning Kitties

You just received a precious delivery! These tips will help you get started.



### *Supplies we will provide:*

#### **A bottle + nipple**

We send a Miracle Nipple with most litters.

#### **Oral syringes**

Please only use this if your kittens don't latch to the bottle or they don't eat full meals of solid food from a plate. [THIS VIDEO](#) shows you how to safely syringe-feed kittens.

#### **Kitten milk replacer powder**

You'll need to mix this with water, using two parts water and one part powder. Watch [THIS VIDEO](#) for mixing instructions.

#### **Heat disc or pad**

Follow the heating instructions on the packaging. Always wrap the heat source with a towel or blanket and do not place the kitten directly on the heat source.

#### **Nesting box or plastic carrier**

Kittens under 3 weeks old need a small living area that replicates a nest and they cannot crawl out of.

#### **Purina wet and dry food**

You can start introducing this food at about 3 weeks of age if your kittens have teeth. No teeth means no solid food.

#### **Tongue depressors**

Use these to "spoon" feed kittens as suggested in [THIS VIDEO](#).

#### **Non-clumping litter and shallow litter boxes**

Kittens start exploring the litter box at about 3 weeks of age. You'll need to stimulate your kittens to urinate or defecate up until about 4 weeks of age. Watch [THIS "KITTEN LADY" VIDEO](#) to learn more.

### Getting settled in:

#### Once you get your kittens home:

Get them settled into their “nest” with plush bedding and a heat source.

#### Stimulate the kittens to urinate or defecate

It will likely have been at least 1-2 hours since they were last stimulated. Watch this video [“HOW TO HELP BABY KITTENS PEE AND POOP!”](#) by Kitten Lady for a refresher on stimulating kittens.

#### Prepare a bottle and offer them a meal

Take a look at this [MADDIE’S FUND STOMACH CAPACITY CHART](#). The feeding amount will depend on the weight listed on the kitten’s medical record (look inside the plastic envelope).

#### If your kitten is not latching to the bottle, please watch these videos:

- [“HOW TO SAFELY BOTTLE FEED A KITTEN”](#) by Kitten Lady.
- [“10 TIPS FOR TRICKY BOTTLE BABY KITTENS”](#) by Kitten Lady.
- [“BOTTLE-FEEDING AND STIMULATION”](#) by the ASPCA NYC Kitten Nursery.

#### Weigh your kitten at some point the following day to ensure they have gained weight

Use this [HEALTH MONITORING SHEET](#) or something like it to record their daily weights, each feeding amount, each time they urinate or defecate, and any concerning signs.

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### Helpful links:

#### Find all of the Bottle Baby resources at: [aspcapp.box.com/v/BottleBabyResources](https://aspcapp.box.com/v/BottleBabyResources)

- This [BOTTLE BABY TRAINING GUIDE](#) includes an in-depth look at bottle babies & weaning kittens.
- Use the [BOTTLE BABY CHEAT SHEET](#) for a quick reference.
- This [LIST OF COMMON MEDICAL CONCERNS AND PREVENTION TIPS](#) is a great reference tool, but should not be used to replace medical care.

### Need to get in touch with us?

Email [foster@sbhumanesociety.org](mailto:foster@sbhumanesociety.org) or call us at 805-203-3181.