



## **Fading Kittens and Puppies: What You Can Do**

Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome might occur to any healthy neonates at any time. Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome is a life-threatening emergency in which a kitten/puppy, sometime one that was previously healthy, SUDDENLY “crashes” and begins to fade away. Please refer to some triages that you can try at home.

**Hypothermia (being too cold), Hypoglycemia (not enough blood sugar), and Dehydration are the most common causes of Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome.**

### **Preventions of Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome:**

- Have a heating pad turned onto “low” at all times.** Mama cat/dog's body temperature is a lot higher (i.e., 102.5F) than your body temperature. Warming neonates with towels and your body temperature are not good enough.
- Feeding them every 2-3 hours\*** depending on their ages (see our feeding guideline). If a pet does not suckle well, offer them syrup and try again in 15 min. For >4 week old, please check their food bowls for intakes every 3 hours. If anyone is getting picked on (such as suckled by a sibling), they might be hungry.
- Checking activity levels** every 3 hours during a day
- Weigh kitten/puppy daily** (Kitten should gain weight 10-15g daily. For a puppy, you should expect weight gain of 20 g daily for a small breed and 10 g daily for a large breed)

### **\*If kittens and puppies are not getting enough milk from your bottle feeding, try the following techniques:**

- Dilute KMR at 1:4 ratio for the first four feeding, then a 1:3 for the next four feeding, and finally the standard 1:2 mix.
- Loosen the bottle cap (if it is too tight, the bottle gets too ridged and kittens will stop suckle); keep the 45 degree angle so air bubbles do not get into their mouth; and hold their heads steady with gentle support by using your fingers on their cheeks.
- Rub their face with a cloth to mimic mama's behavior before feeding
- If the pet is not taking the bottle well, you can attach a Miracle Nipple to a 3 ml syringe. Some babies will suckle from this and depress the plunger on their own. If you need to give them one drop at a time, if you hold the stick of the plunger (rather than the top) with your thumb and forefinger you will have better control to be sure that you're only giving one drop at a time. Remember that syringes wear out quickly and will need to be replaced before the plunger gets difficult to push.
- Check miracle nipples to see if the hole is not too big, not too small, or not broken.
- Check out a great website for more techniques and videos at <http://www.kittenlady.org/bottlefeeding>

**Despite all preventative measures, kittens and puppies can suddenly become inappetence due to Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome.**

## Common Symptoms of Fading Kitten/Puppy Syndrome:

- Low Body Temperature:** the kitten/puppy feels cool or cold to the touch
- Extreme Lethargy:** not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when pet
- Dehydration:** improper amount of food intake, diarrhea and vomiting can be a cause
- Appetite loss**
- Gasping for breath**
- Meowing/Crying out**
- Lack of weight gain**
- Lack of or decreased righting, rooting, and suckling responses**

When any of the above symptoms happens, it is vital that you take these immediate steps!

### Step 1 - Get them warm:

- Create the "burrito" towel. Immediately wrap the pet 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 "MED" around the burrito towel (to avoid burns) as an EXTRA source of heat. Secure it around the towel so it stays in place
- Getting them warm takes about 30min to 45 min. Check them every 15 min.

### Step 2- Get their blood sugar up:

**Once you get the heat on them,**

- Get Karo syrup, corn syrup, maple syrup, or sugar water (Get a bowl or Tupperware and a few tablespoons sugar in hot water. Stir it up so you get a sugar water solution - as strong as possible while still pretty runny)
- Using a syringe or your finger give 3 drops every 3 minutes into the mouth.
- If they aren't swallowing, try to get it **on the tongue or gums**. Do NOT try to force it down the throat
- Set an egg timer or use the stop watch on your cell phone to make sure you are doing it **at least every 3-5 minutes**.

Keep warming the pet up and continue sugar every 3 minutes and sometimes it can take hours for them to come out of it.

*PLEASE KEEP IN MIND, even with all the love and attention and perfect treatment given by you, some of them still won't make it. Please try not to blame yourself during such a difficult time – bring to mind the many, many lives you have helped to save. Any kitten/puppy you've ever taken care of was given a second chance at life BECAUSE of YOU!*