

## Neonatal Kitten Feeding and General Care Guidelines

Kitten Age	Frequency of Feedings	Max. Time Between Feedings
<b>0-2 weeks</b>	Every 2 hours	3-4 hours overnight
<b>2- 3 weeks</b>	Every 3 hours	4-5 hours overnight
<b>3 - 4 weeks</b>	Every 4 hours	5-6 hours overnight
<b>4 - 6 weeks</b>	Every 4 - 5 hours	6-7 hours overnight
<b>6 + weeks</b>	Every 6 -8 hours	10 hours overnight

Age	Weight Range	Feeding Guidelines
<b>At Birth</b>	90 – 110g	KMR Formula from bottle or oral syringe. Mixed 2 parts water to 1 part formula. (Newborns transition from 8:1 -> 4:1 -> 2:1 over the first week). Formula should be warmed, and kitten wrapped up and warm. Feed kitten upright or on belly, NOT on their back. Approximate amount per feeding: 1 week => 3-4 cc's per 100 gram of body weight 2 week => 5 cc's per 100 gram of body weight 3 week => 5-6 cc's per 100 gram of body weight Stimulate kitten w/ cotton ball or non-alcohol baby wipe to help with urine/stool movement. Keep area clean & dry after stimulation.
<b>1 week</b>	180 – 220g	
<b>2 weeks – 4 weeks</b>	220 – 400g	
<b>4 weeks – 6 weeks</b>	400 – 700g	
<b>7 weeks – 8 weeks</b>	700 – 900g	Transition to gruel (wet food mixed with water). Serve warmed. Provide bowl of kitten kibble and fresh water at all times. Many transitioning kittens enjoy warmed baby food (chicken, turkey, w/ no spices, onion or garlic) on a shallow dish. Syringe feed gruel (puree it to a smooth paste) when needed to maintain appropriate weight gain. As kitten begins to use the litter box, stimulation is no longer needed.
<b>8 weeks</b>	800g and up	Kitten should be eating wet food and kibble on own. Kitten should be using litter box.
<b>Lactating Mother and kittens</b>		Feed lactating mother a high quality wet kitten food. Have a bowl of dry kitten kibble and water available at all times. You do not need to stimulate the kittens, as the mother does it. Nursing kittens can start to eat some gruel and kibble at 3-4 weeks. Provide a litter box with non-clumping litter near kittens at 3-4 weeks.

### Care Guidelines

- Keep kittens in a **safe** and secure spot, isolated from other pets for up to 10 days.
- Keep kittens **warm and dry** at all times. Provide a heat source – heating pad, snuggle disc, rice with sock. Do not give babies a bath unless you can be certain the kitten will be 100% warm & dry afterwards.
- **Weigh kittens** using a digital food scale (grams). Frequency: bottle babies 3x/day, gruel babies 2x/day, nursing babies 1-2x/day. Keep track of weights. You may need to weigh kitten more if sick, underweight, etc.
- For mild/occasional diarrhea, mix unflavored Pedialyte and/or Acidophilus into formula. Canned pumpkin can be mixed into gruel.