

DON'T KIT-NAP THIS KITTEN SEASON!

Kitten season has started again in sunny South Florida, and chances are good that tiny newborn kittens will be seen outdoors in bushes and protected places.

Don't touch those kittens – their lives depend on it!

Kittens are cute and tiny, but kitten season is a very difficult time for animal shelters. During early spring to late fall, cats mate and give birth to numerous kittens. It's that time of year that shelters across the nation dread.

Good Samaritans see these kittens and desperately want to help them. Here is the best way to help kittens when they are found.

- 🐾 Watch closely – Wherever there is a nest of newborn kittens, the mother cat isn't too far away. She most likely went to find food for herself, so she can continue to nurse her kittens until they are able to eat on their own.
- 🐾 Once the mother has come back to her litter, some food and water for her can be set up far enough away from the nest so that it does not attract predators, but close enough so she can eat and get back to her kittens quickly.
- 🐾 If after 24 hours the mother hasn't come back to her kittens, this is when they may need human intervention. Newborn kittens require round-the-clock care, but animal shelters may not have enough staff/fosters to care for these vulnerable newborn kittens.

When kittens are found, think of these questions:

- 🐾 Where is mother?
- 🐾 Is she visible? If she is, leave food and water at a distance.
- 🐾 If she is not seen, watch for 24 hours, and reach out to a local animal shelter for advice.

Kittens' best chance for survival is to stay with the mother. Her milk has antibodies that help the kittens grow and get strong. She also teaches her kittens important survival skills.

Once the kittens are 2 pounds or 2 months old, they are old enough for vaccines, spay/neuter surgery and adoption.

This campaign is a joint effort between Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control and Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League.

Palm Beach County Animal Care and Control is located at 7100 Belvedere Road in West Palm Beach. For additional information and shelter hours of operation, please visit the website www.pbcgov.com/animal or call 561-233-1200.

Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League is located at 3200 N. Military Trail in West Palm Beach. For additional information and shelter hours of operation, please visit the website at <https://www.peggyadams.org/> or call 561-686-3663.



KITTEN SUPPLIES NEEDED!



We are always in need of kitten supplies to help us care for the orphaned kittens in our community, especially during “Kitten Season”.

ITEMS NEEDED

- Royal Canin Babycat Canned Food
- Fancy Feast Chicken or Turkey Canned Food
- KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement)
- Gerber Baby Food - Chicken & Gravy
- Disposable Cotton Face Rounds
- Plastic Pet Carriers
- Miracle Nipples
- Kitten Toys

Supplies can be dropped off in the main lobby of our shelter anytime during regular business hours or shipped directly to the shelter, **attention: Foster Program**.

All donations are tax-deductible and greatly appreciated!



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners

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Animal Care & Control Division
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