

FOUND KITTENS?

If you've found kittens, here's what to do.

START HERE: Are the kittens injured or critically sick?

YES →

CALL 770-532-6617

or make a surrender request online at hsnega.org

↓ **NO**

ESTIMATE THE AGE OF THE KITTENS



0-2 WEEKS OLD

Eyes closed or barely open



2-4 WEEKS OLD

Eyes open and alert; becoming mobile



4-6 WEEKS OLD

Very mobile and often talkative; can eat food



6-8 WEEKS OLD

Very active and playful; around 1-2 pounds



8+ WEEKS OLD

Very active and playful; 2 pounds or more

STOP! Can you see the mom cat OR a nest?

YES ↓

DON'T KIT-NAP!

A kitten's best chance of survival is with mom. **Leave the kittens where they are.**

If you want to help, make sure mom has access to shelter, food, and water and contact a TNR group to have mom and kittens fixed when ready.

NO ↓

ARE YOU SURE?

Mom may be off hunting or not want to come around if people are present. Watch for her to come back for a few hours.

PRO TIP: Leave a ring of flour around the kittens. Check in a few hours if you see mom's foot prints in the flour!

If the kittens are friendly, utilize social media and your personal network to try and place them in homes.

Call **HSNEGA** (hsnega.org) for spay/neuter services information.

CALL 770-532-6617 ext 230

or make a surrender request online for confirmed orphaned kittens. Email: AnimalCare@hsnega.org

Visit hsnega.org for more kitten care resources.

KITTENS THAT NEED HELP:

This guide refers to kittens 4 weeks of age and younger, when care with mom offers them the BEST chance of survival. Kittens that fit the descriptions below are possibly abandoned and need help from humans.

COLD

Young kittens cannot regulate their own body temperature and rely on mom, their siblings, and nesting material to keep them warm. They may lose some heat when mom is not with them, so unless they ALSO fit any of the other descriptions below, leave them and check again in 2-5 hours to see if mom came back.

DIRTY

A good mama cat keeps her babies meticulously clean. Kittens that need your help may have dirt, feces, or crusted urine on their bodies. They may be wet. Their genital areas may be red and inflamed, indicating urine scalding.

THIN

Kittens with a mom should be eating frequently. Their bellies will typically have a full, rounded appearance. Sunken bellies, visible bones, and pale skin can indicate that the kittens need help and aren't being fed.

NOISY

Orphaned and hungry kittens will cry loudly, **but loud kittens alone do not indicate that they are orphaned.** Mom does not stay with the kittens all day long and might be on her way back. She might even be watching you in the shadows, waiting for YOU to leave her babies alone. Leave these kittens alone for 2-4 hours, then check on them again. If they are quiet when you return, it means that mom has probably been back to care for them and you should let her keep up the good work.

SICK/HURT

Sick kittens might have discharge from the eyes and nose. Their eyes may be crusted shut. They may have wounds or open sores.

THESE KITTENS DO NOT NEED HELP



These kittens are **clean, quiet, dry,** and **plump** with full bellies with light pink coloring, showing that they are **warm.**



DON'T TOUCH!

THESE KITTENS NEED YOUR HELP!



This kitten is **noisy, dirty,** and **sick.** It has nasal discharge and crusted-shut eyes.



These kittens are **thin, wet,** and **cold.** You can see their backbones.



This kitten is **thin, wet,** and **cold,** and has discharge from the eyes.



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