



How you react when you find a kitten in your area this spring could mean life or death. Bringing home a stray or feral kitten isn't always the answer—for them or you. Please read the following information to decide what is right for you and the adorable outdoor kittens.

Facts about newborn kittens

From birth to three weeks, kittens are fully dependent upon their mother, just opening their eyes for the first time, and are considered “neonatal.” Caring for kittens at this stage takes hours each day. If kittens are truly motherless, see our free step-by-step guide for help at www.alleycat.org/Neonatal.

You CAN socialize feral kittens.

Up to eight weeks old, kittens who are “born feral” can be socialized. With close care and time, they can become affectionate and loving companions. At five to six weeks, you're still in the green zone for adoption! Learn more at www.alleycat.org/Socialization.

Safe trapping tips

When you decide to trap kittens, make sure to do so safely. Only use appropriately sized traps, and please plan for one trap per kitten. Bring the kitten (in the trap) to a veterinarian or clinic near you to be neutered. Then return the kitten to her original colony to live her life outdoors with her family! Learn more at www.alleycat.org/TrappingMomandKittens.

1–2 weeks



JASON PUTSCHE

5–6 weeks



JASON PUTSCHE

2 months+



AMANDA NOVOTNY

3–4 weeks



JASON PUTSCHE

8–9 weeks



JASON PUTSCHE

2 ½ months+



AMANDA NOVOTNY

Don't assume they are safe at a shelter.

Did you know that neonatal kittens, young feral kittens, and feral cats who wind up in shelters stand almost no chance of being adopted? They will most likely be killed. Instead of death, give kittens life and a good home. Visit www.alleycat.org/Homes for other adoption tips.

Spay baby, spay!

As soon as kittens weigh two pounds—around eight weeks—they can be safely spayed or neutered through a proven procedure known as “early-age spay/neuter.” Many are told to spay at six months. But that is a common misconception—it's too late—cats can become pregnant as young as 16 weeks. Learn more at www.alleycat.org/EarlyAge.

Is that kitten too big?

Most kittens are fully weaned by ten weeks. They can still be socialized but with greater difficulty. Kittens who are four or more months old can remain in their outdoor homes—after they've been spayed or neutered and vaccinated of course!