DON'T KIT-NAP ME!

Kittens have the best chance for survival if they stay with their mom. Removing them puts them at risk. Follow this flow chart to help you make the best decision for the kittens’ care during COVID-19.

**START**

Are the kittens sick or hurt?

- **YES**
  - Call 311 for an Animal Protection Officer to respond. If the kittens need immediate, lifesaving attention, take them to Central Texas Veterinary Specialty & Emergency Hospital (South). Please call ahead: (512) 580-9233

- **NO**

Estimate the age of the kittens

- **0-2 WEEKS** Eyes still closed or just beginning to open
- **2-4 WEEKS** Eyes open and alert; starting to explore
- **4-6 WEEKS** Very mobile and talkative; starting to eat solid food
- **6-8 WEEKS** Very active and playful; around 1-2 lbs
- **8+ WEEKS** Very active and playful; weighs 2+ lbs

Is the mother cat caring for the kittens?

- **YES**
  - Leave the kittens where they are. When they are 6-8 weeks old, follow the instructions to the right for their age. Contact the Community Cats program for FREE spay resources for the mother cat.
  - Are you sure? Mom cats need to hunt and a nervous mom cat may not return if you are present. Make a ring of flour around the kittens and check back in 6 hours for mom's pawprints. Another tip is to see if the kittens are fat, clean, and quiet; that means they are being taken care of.

- **NO**

Are you willing to care for the kittens?

- **YES**
  - You're truly a lifesaver! See “What to Do When You Find Kittens” for guidance.
  - If you cannot bottle feed them, post on your social media to see if someone else can. Call 311 if under 4 weeks; submit an intake request for over 4: bit.ly/strayintake

- **NO**
  - Post on your social media to see if someone else can foster them. Submit an intake request: bit.ly/strayintake

**TIPS**

- Kittens need to be fed a formula made for cats. Never feed cow's milk to an orphaned kitten.
- Mom cats set up their kittens in safe places. Leave found kittens where they are unless they're in immediate danger.
- Kittens have a much higher survival rate if they stay with mom at least until weaned (~6 weeks old).

**CONTACT US**

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