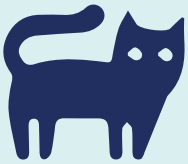
HUMANE ANIMAL PARTNERS
DELAWARE

Kitten Season

Kitten season occurs because cats are seasonal breeders. As the days become longer and temperatures rise, female cats go into heat, leading to an increase in the number of pregnancies. Consequently, shelters and rescues see a surge in the number of kittens needing homes and care.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A KITTEN

Finding a kitten can be a daunting experience.
Here's a guide to help you navigate this situation:

ASSESS THE SITUATION

OBSERVE FROM A DISTANCE



- The **mother cat** might be nearby, foraging for food or temporarily away.

CHECK FOR IMMEDIATE DANGER



- High-traffic area
- Harsh weather
- Threatened by predators

DETERMINE THE AGE OF THE KITTEN

Identifying the age of the kitten is crucial for providing appropriate care.

NEWBORN (0-1 WEEK)	1-2 WEEKS	2-4 WEEKS	4-6 WEEKS	6-8 WEEKS
Eyes and ears closed Feeding every 2-3h	Eyes start to open, ears begin to unfold	Eyes fully open (blue) Feeding every 4-6h	Canines emerge Starts walking	All teeth emerge Eats adult cat food

IMMEDIATE CARE

If mother does not return

Warmth
Newborn kittens cannot regulate their body temperature.

Hydration
Ensure it is getting enough fluids through the kitten milk replacer.

Feeding
If the mother is not present, it will need to be fed a kitten milk replacer.

Cleanliness
Keep the kitten clean with a warm, wet washcloth.

CHECK FOR INJURIES OR ILLNESS

Gently examine the kitten for any signs of injury or illness, such as:

FLEAS OR PARASITES	DISCHARGE OCULAR OR NASAL	LETHARGY	VOMITING OR DIARRHEA
			

SOCIALIZATION & CARE



Handling
Handle the kitten frequently and gently.



Litter Training
Introduce the kitten around 4 weeks old.



Veterinary Care
Schedule a check-up with a vet.

LONGTERM PLANNING

Around 8 weeks, kittens are ready for adoption (after they've been fixed, of course!). Shelters like **Humane Animal Partners** can help with placement or offer courtesy posts through their social media channels.

If you decide to keep the kitten, prepare for a lifelong commitment. This includes regular veterinary visits, a balanced diet, socialization, and lots of love and attention.