



Thinking about Fostering Kittens for King Street Cats?



Your Questions Answered:

What will my responsibilities as a Foster Parent be? You will be responsible for providing a safe and clean environment to care for the cat/kittens. Essentially feeding, playing, cuddling, and cleaning up after them; much like human babies they eat and poop a lot! We do ask that you foster for a minimum of one month and be willing and able to transport your kittens to King Street Cats or Fort Hunt Animal Hospital in Alexandria, VA for occasional medical treatment such as routine vaccinations, micro chipping, and their spay/neuter surgery.

How many will I have? That depends. We need foster homes for pregnant moms; moms and babies; and sometimes just a set of kittens. You have a say in the amount of fosters you would like. We won't give you more than you can handle!

How much space do I need to provide? A small room is all you need. A spare bathroom could be ideal, but any room where you can close the door works perfectly. You can keep the kittens in a large crate with a bed and litter, and take them out to play and feed. We can advise you on the best location depending on age, size, and number of kittens.

How much time should I spend with them each day? An hour in the morning and an hour in the evening would be great; however if you have more time during the day or in the evening when you arrive home from work, wonderful. The more socializing and stimulation they get the more adoptable they will be. It is also incredibly helpful if you get them used to you touching their paws, ears, and mouth area (gently of course) so that they

will be much easier to handle during future vet appointments, nail trims, etc. This process is called “gentling.”

Who provides food? King Street Cats is more than willing to provide the food and other supplies that you need; however also greatly appreciates when Foster Parents supply food and litter on their own and take it as a tax deduction. King Street Cats will provide a tax donation form for all supplies donated towards the care of your foster kittens. Fostering is tax deductible!

What do I feed the kittens? Typically kittens 0-4 weeks old are fed a combination of wet kitten food and KMR (Kitten Milk Replacement – NOT cow milk) at first. They can progress to just wet food, and finally wet and dry. Regarding dry food, our vets highly encourage the use of Purina ProPlan Kitten Dry Food. The key is to provide a large quantity of nutritious, high-quality food that keeps the kittens healthy and growing.

How do I know that they are eating and how much should I feed? It is a good idea to sit with them when they eat so you can see who is eating more or less. We will give you specific guidelines on how much they need to eat and how to monitor their weight gain.

How do I know when a kitten is not feeling well? It is important to monitor their food intake as not eating may be a sign that something else is wrong. Listlessness as well as cold-like symptoms: sneezing, coughing, runny nose or eyes may also be a sign something is wrong. Kittens’ immune systems are sensitive so you need to watch carefully for any signs and contact KSC if symptoms continue longer than 24 hours.

Who takes care of any vetting? KSC has a great relationship with Fort Hunt Animal Hospital and we take all of our cats there for medical assistance. Should the kittens need medical attention, which would need to be determined and/or approved by KSC, we would request that you take the kittens there. The cost will be covered by KSC.

What kind of litter is best for kittens? It is important to use NON-clumping clay litter or pine litter for kittens less than 4 weeks old as they are much more likely to ingest their litter than older kittens. Once they are over that age, you are free to use any odor-free litter of your choice. KSC uses pine litter at the shelter as it is a natural odor reducer, is gentle on their feet, and is less likely to cause any harm if ingested. It also doesn’t track.

Can they play with my other cats? We encourage you to keep your foster kittens separate from your other cats as illness or injury caused to your cats from a KSC foster kitten is your own personal liability. KSC cannot unfortunately afford to pay for vet bills of cats that are not in the KSC system. If you do choose to integrate your cats with your KSC foster kittens, please make sure that 1) your cat is healthy and up-to-date on all their vaccinations 2) the foster kitten(s) have been vaccinated and cleared by the vet.

Can they sleep in my bedroom with me? If you have no other animals, then when they get older yes, but remember kittens are nocturnal and curious so you may not get much

sleep. Also be forewarned that they may climb into nooks and crannies in your bedroom, get stuck, and then cry until you find them. If you cuddle with them in your bed, please be sure not to fall asleep and roll over on them!

When will they be ready for adoption? Usually kittens will be ready for adoption once they have been spayed and neutered, which typically happens at 4 months or 4lbs* (in weight). We do ask that you bring the kittens to Dove Street for weekend adoption events when they are old enough to find their forever homes.

What if I decide to keep them? If you get attached to one or more of your kittens you can go through the adoption process to keep them!

I want to foster kittens how do I get started? Please read and sign the KSC Volunteer Agreement and KSC Foster contract and return them to KSC via e-mail, contact@kingstreetcats.org, or physical mailing address, ATTN: Foster Coordinator, 25 S. Dove Street, Alexandria, VA. Please e-mail contact@kingstreetcats.org if you need these forms.

* Fort Hunt Animal Hospital will not spay or neuter until the kitten is at least four pounds.