

DEALING WITH A MOM CAT & HER KITTENS

A Forgotten Felines & Fidos Guide

1.) Feed Mom!

Nursing kittens drain a ton of energy & nutrients from their mother and she needs them in order to produce milk! Do not feed near the kittens to keep from drawing predators near them.

2.) Is Mom Friendly? Estimate Kitten Age!

Exactly when to act depends on the location of the litter and the level of danger they are in. Babies need to nurse as long as possible (at least 6 weeks), but in dire situations, you may need to intervene sooner. Mom will move them if she feels threatened, making your job harder.

3.) Follow Instructions by FFF Volunteer.

Upon direction by an FFF volunteer, we will give you the best tactics in securing the litter, and safely catching mom to have her spayed. Typically you will want to catch mom first, then gather the babies. Otherwise she will disappear only to return with more kittens.

4.) Trap.

We lend equipment, cages, and Have-A-Heart traps. Kittens are caged and handled until deemed friendly. This can take 1-2 days depending on their age. The older the kittens, the longer it will take. This part can be fun though!

5.) Find a Home!

If shelters are full, start posting their pictures on Facebook, at your workplace, and at the vet office right away! Share photos with family & friends and encourage them to do likewise. As a last resort, pet stores have willingly taken friendly kittens under 10 weeks of age.

What must be considered is the end result of doing nothing. Mom cats can have 3 litters a year with up to 8 kittens in a litter. She can come into heat again while nursing 5-7 week old babies. If the babies survive, they will breed at 5-6 months old (they can breed with each other)! It can be cost prohibitive to spay/neuter large colonies and food bills climb. Ultimately the animals suffer and it is best to prevent it from the beginning!