



TINY KITTENS, BIG RESPONSIBILITY

Caring for Your 4-8 Week-Old Kitten

Congratulations — and **thank you**. By adopting a 4-week-old kitten, you are participating in a lifesaving program that moves vulnerable kittens out of the shelter quickly, preventing euthanasia and creating space for more kittens in need. These adoptions look like regular adoptions — but these kittens still have special developmental needs.



What Makes a 4-Week Old Kitten Different?

At four weeks old, your kitten is:

- Still growing rapidly
- Transitioning from bottle to solid food
- Learning litter box habits
- Developing critical social skills
- Needing structure, warmth, and close supervision

You are helping them reach full “kittenhood.”



Create a Small, Safe Space

Keep your kitten in a small, contained area (bathroom, playpen, small bedroom) at first.

- Small spaces help them feel secure.
- They should be able to reach their litter box in seconds.
- Quick access prevents accidents and reinforces good habits.

As they grow and gain confidence, you can gradually expand their space.



Litter Box Basics

Consistency now builds lifelong habits.

- Use a shallow, easy-entry litter box.
- Place it close to where they sleep and eat.
- At this age, speed matters — they need immediate access when they feel the urge.



Nutrition & Hydration

These kittens are growing incredibly fast — they need a lot of calories.

- Offer frequent meals (3–4 times daily).
- Provide a variety of foods (some kittens are picky!).
- Add warm water to wet food for extra hydration.
- Fresh water should always be available.

Good nutrition now supports healthy growth and immune development.



Daily Weigh-Ins

Healthy kittens gain weight every single day.

- Use a kitchen scale.
- Weigh at the same time each day.
- Track their weight.

If your kitten does not gain weight for 24 hours, contact the shelter or your veterinarian.



Sleep & Warmth

Growing kittens need plenty of sleep.

- Provide a warm, cozy sleeping area.
- Avoid drafts.
- Respect their rest — growth happens during sleep.



Social Development (3–6 Weeks)

This is a critical socialization window.

- Gentle handling daily
- Calm exposure to household sounds
- Positive, loving interactions

The time you spend with your kitten now helps shape the cat they will become.



Thank you

Your bond with your new kitten will be strong. You are not just adopting — you are finishing the most delicate stage of this kitten's life. **Enjoy every tiny moment.**

If you find yourself wanting to help more kittens like this, consider signing up to foster. By adopting your young kitten, you are saving a life — and making room for the next one.

