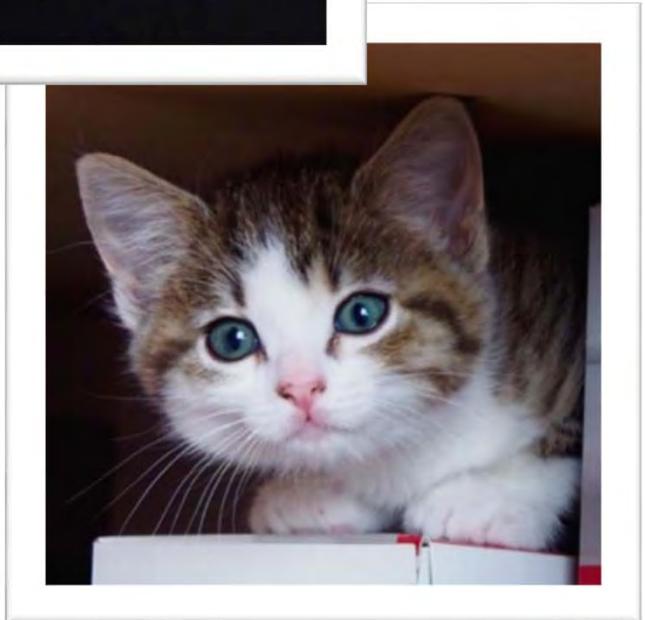
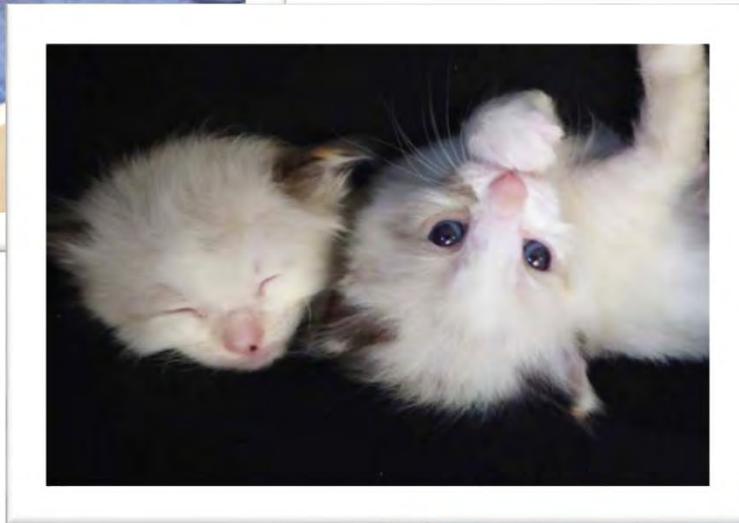


The Everything Cat & Kitten

FOSTER CARE

Guide



You Can't
BUY LOVE
But you can
Foster
its Growth

Dear Foster Family,

You are about to embark on a live-saving adventure! Thank you for opening your home and heart to some of the shelters most “at risk” animals.

The Longmont Humane Society’s Foster Care program provides temporary homes for animals that are sick, injured, orphaned, nursing or have behavioral issues that make them unavailable for immediate adoption upon intake. You have become part of a program that saves hundreds of lives each year. It provides a chance at survival for animals that may not otherwise thrive in the shelter environment.

Fostering is a commitment that requires a substantial investment of time and energy. People who choose to foster are preparing the fostered animals for a successful future and often bridge the gap between shelter life and loving forever homes. By being part of the foster program you are giving the gift of hope to animals in need.

There are several requirements to be a great foster family and those requirements vary on what type of animal you’d like to foster. If the requirements in the following section do not work well for you, let us know, we can help find the foster situation that’s best for you!

The staff and the animals at LHS can never thank you enough for your commitment to the shelter’s neediest animals.

Sincerely,

The Longmont Humane Society
Foster Care Coordinator





Wp h

Are you able to devote the required time daily and weekly to your foster animal? (See Chart Below) Yes No

Are you able to bring your foster animal to the shelter for vet visits approx. every 2-3 weeks? Yes No

Are you able to contact LHS or bring your animal to LHS in the event of an emergency? Yes No



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Are you able to separate your foster animals from your household pets for at least two weeks to protect them from illnesses and allow a proper adjustment period? Yes No



Are you able to handle cleaning procedures such as disinfecting your foster animal's area routinely? Yes No

Are you able to handle any potential home damage (carpet, clothing and/or furniture) associated with the animal? Yes No

Fduh

Are you able to handle sickness or possible death of a foster animal? Yes No



Are you able to emotionally handle letting go of a foster animal after becoming attached once the foster period is over? Yes No

Are you able to handle the potential of foster animals carrying illness that could affect your household animals? Yes No

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Type of Foster	Duration of Foster	Daily Commitment
Sick/Injured Cats	1 week – 2 months	1-2.5 Hours
Weaned Kittens	1-4 Weeks	1-2 Hours
Kittens with Mom	2-8 Weeks	1-2 hours or more
Bottle Babies	6-8 Weeks	Up to 8 Hours

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Before you bring your little bundle of kitten joy home, make sure you have a suitable safe place for them to stay. A bathroom works well and is our suggested first choice for the kittens. Whatever room you choose it should adhere to the following guidelines:

- ✓ A Temperature Controlled Space
- ✓ Separate from other household pets
- ✓ Can withstand kitten mess (litter box accidents, vomit, water, food etc.)
- ✓ Covered electrical outlets and wires
- ✓ No small items a kitten could ingest
- ✓ Light, either natural or artificial
- ✓ Secured windows
- ✓ Bleachable spaces are ideal

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- ✓ Have food and water bowls available.
- ✓ Litter boxes should be as far away from food and water as possible
- ✓ Old towels make great bedding for kittens
- ✓ A “safe box” like a cardboard box turned on its side or small crate with the door removed with bedding in it.
- ✓ Provide safe, disposable or easily sanitized toys to entertain the kittens when you are not with them. Plastic jingly balls, ping pong balls, wine corks, plastic shower curtain rings, or balls of paper/foil can work well.

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- ✓ Kitten Food
- ✓ Canned Food
- ✓ Non-clumping or pine litter
- ✓ Litter box
- ✓ KMR for supplemental feeding if needed
- ✓ Kitchen scale

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- ✓ Bottles and nipples
- ✓ Snuggle safe disc/Rice Sock
- ✓ KMR
- ✓ Kitten dry food & canned food
- ✓ Kitchen scale
- ✓ Karo Syrup
- ✓ Pedialyte

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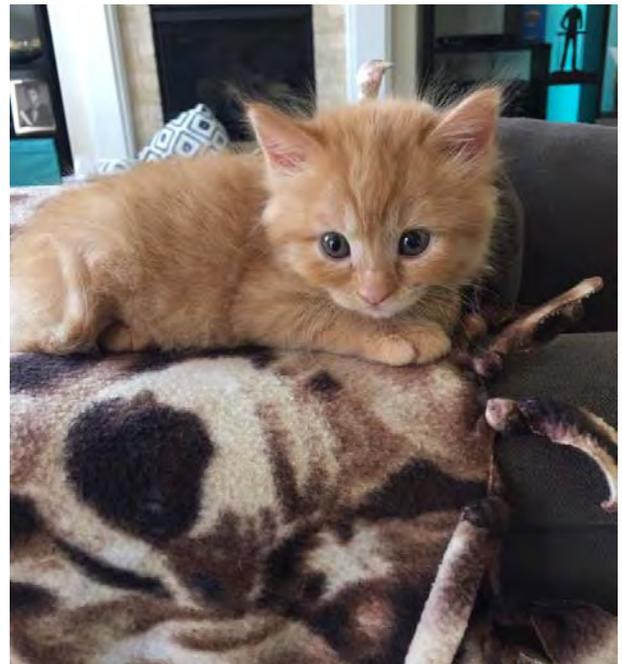
- ✓ Snuggle Safe Disc/Rice Sock
- ✓ Dry kitten food
- ✓ Canned cat food (pate)
- ✓ KMR to mix with wet food to make slurry
- ✓ Non-clumping or pine litter
- ✓ Shallow litter box
- ✓ Kitchen Scale
- ✓ Karo Syrup
- ✓ Pedialyte

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- ✓ Dry kitten food
- ✓ Canned cat food
- ✓ Litter
- ✓ Litter box
- ✓ Toys

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Foster animals should always be kept away from the household animals for at least 2 weeks. This is to prevent the spread of disease, many animals appear healthy and while the shelter does its best to assess an animals health and communicate any illness concerns, sometimes underlying illnesses do pop up within a 14 day window. It also gives foster animals an opportunity to become comfortable in the home in a space that is small and secure.

K hdw

Young kittens are unable to regulate their own body temperature. Its important to provide either a snuggle safe disc or rice sock to help maintain the kitten's body temperature. Kittens should be able to easily move away from the heat source if they become too hot.

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Follow the feeding schedule provided in this manual and on your animal info sheet. Its also important to keep track of daily feedings and kitten weight gain.

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Young kittens, under 3 weeks of age, will need help urinating and defecating. To do so, gently rub a warm cloth or cotton pad on the anus and genital areas immediately after feeding. This will stimulate the kittens to urinate or defecate into the cloth or pad.

Fhdq lqj

Kittens are usually groomed by their mother. In the absence of a mother, you must groom and keep the kittens clean. Use a warm damp cloth to stroke the kittens fur, this simulates how a mother would groom her cats. A small amount of Dawn soap can be used if needed. Rinse the kitten well. Dry kittens well so they don't get chilled.

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One of the best, and most important roles a foster parent plays in their foster kitten's life is socialization! Kittens should be handled regularly, several times a day. All handling should be a positive experience for them. You should spend time touching your kitten all over, especially their paws. Hands should never be used as toys! Play with your kittens using toys and not your hands, this prevents kittens from thinking they can scratch or bite fingers.



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Around 3-4 weeks of age kittens are likely to start being interested in and able to use the litter box. This instinct is natural and most of the times kittens need little help with litter box training. Use a low lipped box, the foster department has some available for use, a deep serving tray works well too. Keeping the litter box clean is essential to develop good litter box habits. Just gently place the kittens in the litter immediately after they've eaten, they'll eventually get the idea. Be patient and consistent.

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Once your kitten has reached one pound it will receive its first set of vaccines. If the kitten is one pound prior to going to foster it will have already received it before you bring it home. A second set of vaccines will be given and spay/neuter surgery when the kitten reaches two pounds. Other health checks and exams may be necessary depending on your specific kittens needs.

All healthcare exams will be scheduled through the foster care coordinator. At your appointment you'll bring the kitten to the intake desk and let them know you have an appointment . If you feel your kitten is experiencing a medical emergency do not hesitate to call, after hours use the emergency line. 720-515-3678

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Weeks	Feeding	Development
0-1	Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until kitten is full but not bloated. Overnight feedings can be every 3 hours, generally kittens should eat a ½ tablespoon or 6-8 ml every feeding	Kittens will sleep about 90% of the time and eat the rest of the time. Handle them minimally. Newborns are deaf and blind and are unable to maintain their body temperature.
1-2	Bottle feed every 2-3 hours until kitten is full but not bloated. Overnight feedings can be every 3-4 hours, generally kittens should eat a ½ tablespoon or 6-8 ml every feeding	Ear canals will open at 6-8 days, eyes open at 8-14 days. Healthy kittens will be round and warm and rarely cry. Kittens are still unable to maintain their body temperature.
2-3	Bottle feed every 3-4 hours until kitten is full but not bloated. Overnight feeding can be every 4 hours. Generally kittens should eat about 1 tablespoon or 15 ml each feeding.	Kittens will begin to crawl and stand. This is a great time to increase interactions with kittens and handle them more frequently. Kittens still unable to maintain their body temp.
3-4	Bottle feed every 3-4 hours. Overnight feedings can be every 5 hours. Kitten may start lapping from a bowl when closer to 4 weeks and will probably eat 15 – 25 ml per feeding.	Kittens begin to see well. They may start experimenting with cleaning themselves and using the litter box. They are still unable to maintain their body temperature.
4-5	Gradually start weaning kittens by offering formula in a dish. Kittens will not need fed at night and should be eating about 3 tablespoons at each feeding.	Litter box training can begin! Kittens become more active and will probably play with each other.
5-6	It's slurry time! Mix formula with wet food and offer 4 times today. Okay to introduce dry food and water.	It's all about socialization at this stage. Handle your kittens frequently touching their paws and tails. Enjoy play time with them!
6-7	Feed canned food 3 times daily. Free feed dry food and water.	Kittens start exhibiting cat behavior, grooming, playing etc. This is a good time to reinforce litterbox training.
7-8	Feed canned food 3 times daily. Free feed dry food and water.	Enjoy your last week or so with your babies, you've done a great job!
8+	Feed canned food 3 times daily. Free feed dry food and water.	Kittens should weigh 2 lbs. and be ready for spay/neuter surgery and adoption!

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Bottle babies should never be fed anything but Kitten Milk Replacer. Never feed cow's milk.

Powdered formula should be mixed at a ratio of 1 part formula to 2 parts water. It's important to follow mixing instructions on the packaging. Any mixed formula can be stored in a refrigerator for up to 24 hours. Any unused formula should be discarded after 24 hours or frozen.

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- Only use clean nipples and bottles
- Feed kittens one at a time. Place them on a counter top and allow them to stand on all four paws while eating. This simulates how they would nurse from a mother cat.
- Never feed a kitten while on its back. This can cause kittens to aspirate the formula into their lungs.
- Stroking kittens can help them eat
- Pull lightly on the bottle, this promotes strong sucking.
- Never squeeze the bottle to force formula into the kitten's mouth.
- After feeding burp your kitten by gently rubbing its back.
- After feeding stimulate your kitten to urinate and/or defecate.
- Fill out the daily weight and feeding record
- Don't try to feed kittens when you're in a rush. Relax and enjoy the special time to bond with them.

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Whenever possible, nursing queens are fostered together with their litters. A nursing mom and her babies can be such a fun unique foster but they also have a unique set of needs.



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Nursing mother cats should have a separate room away from other activities in the house. Spare bathrooms and guest bedrooms are ideal for her.

Mom will need a few days to adjust to her new space, try not to disturb her too much. Your space should provide her a nesting box for her to feel she has a safe space for her babies. A carrier with the door removed, or cardboard box turned on its side with a towel draped over it works well for this.

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For the first few weeks, mom will do everything necessary to take care of her kittens. Kittens start nursing very soon after birth. Mom will groom her kittens. Cats should be left alone for the first two weeks except to feed, clean and check on the kittens a few times a day. Try to disturb momma as little as possible.

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Milk production requires a lot of energy, nursing mothers should eat dry kitten food and be given three or four feedings of wet food per day. She will also consume a lot of water.

Mom should have a large litter box with high walls to use. The litter box should have walls high enough for kittens to be unable to climb into it. While nursing, mom may have very loose stool, unless she becomes dehydrated or is coupled with lethargy, this is normal.

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Weaning is a gradual process that the mother will take care of herself for the most part. At about 4-5 weeks mom will begin weaning her kittens. Continue to supply plenty of food for mom and her weaning babies. Now is a good time to introduce “slurry” a mixture of 1 part canned food to 2 parts warm water or 2 parts mixed formula. At about 6 to 8 weeks of age kittens should be fully weaned.

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Maternal Neglect – In very rare cases, kittens die from poor maternal care. Some cats lack maternal instinct and in other cases it’s nature’s way of handling sick or weak kittens. Environmental stress can also contribute to a mother not caring for her litter. It is vitally important to monitor both the health of the mother and each kitten in her litter. Some kittens may need extra support (bottle feedings) depending on how attentive mom is to the entire litter.

Maternal Aggression – As mom protects her kittens, it is common for her to be aggressive towards humans or other animals. Do not introduce her to your household pets as it adds too much stress to the environment. If aggression becomes severe call your foster coordinator.



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URI's are one of the most common kitten illnesses. They are caused by contagious viruses and bacteria. Common signs to look for:

- Sneezing and discharge from eyes/nose
- Congested breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Lethargy
- Dehydration

If you notice any of these signs please contact your foster coordinator to schedule an exam.



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Occasionally a kitten that appeared healthy will suddenly stop thriving. They will stop growing, socializing and acting normally. They will begin to lose weight and may start crying often. When this happens, they fade quickly and even with medical intervention generally don't survive.

There is no understood cause for this condition and it is not something the foster parent has or hasn't done that causes it. Remember a kitten that fades **is not your fault.**

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If an animal does pass away in your care, it does need to be brought back to the shelter as soon as possible. Please place the animal in a freezer if you are unable to bring it in immediately. Remains can be brought in 7 days a week from 12:00 pm – 6:00 pm to the intake desk. Please call ahead so we can let intake staff know to expect you.

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There are three types of cat stool, normal, soft and diarrhea. Normal stool is firm and has a defined shape. Soft stool is not firm but still has some shape. Diarrhea is liquid. Diarrhea is common in kittens and can be caused by parasites, viruses, bacteria, food changes, stress, or overfeeding.



Diarrhea must be monitored as it can quickly lead to dehydration. If the kitten is active, mild diarrhea that occurs for less than 24 hours is generally not a concern. If the diarrhea is severe, lasts more than 24 hours or contains blood call the Foster Coordinator to schedule an exam.



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Cats and kittens can sometimes get tapeworms either in their feces or on their anus. These look like grains of rice. Roundworms look like spaghetti and can be seen in the litter box or in vomit. Parasites are commonly found in the stool of kittens. If you notice worms, call the Foster Coordinator to schedule an exam.

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It is normal for kittens to have little pieces of crust in their eyes after waking up. If you see continuous yellow or green discharge, or the eyes are swollen or closed, call the Foster Coordinator. You can use a warm damp cloth to gently wipe the affected eye.

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Ringworm is a contagious fungus that can spread to other animals and humans. A sign of ringworm is thinning hair or patches of hair loss. Ringworm is difficult to remove from your house and is easily spread. Please contact the Foster Coordinator if you notice any hair loss.

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Most kittens come into the shelter as strays, so we often don't know anything about their previous medical history. While they initially appear healthy, they have fragile immune systems and may develop several illnesses. Most are pretty mild, but can sometimes be life-threatening . Use the chart below to understand if you're experiencing an emergency.

Emergency Line Number:
720-515-3678

Call during shelter hours and Schedule an Appointment If:	Call & Bring in Immediately or call emergency line if after hours:
Not Eating for 2 feedings or 12 hours this can quickly escalate into an emergency situation.	Not Eating & Lethargic: If your kitten hasn't eaten in over 8 hours and is acting lethargic and is not being "picked up" by karo syrup.
No Weight Gain: Kittens should gain ¼ - ½ ounce daily stagnant weight for more than 48 hours can indicate a problem.	Dramatic Weight Loss: Any weight loss that is significant, over 2 ounces in 24 hours
Weight Loss: Kittens should never lose weight call ASAP if they are experiencing weight loss.	Extreme Lethargy: Kitten is unable to be roused, not playing, seems weak, etc.
Loose Stool: Thick yogurt type consistency, start probiotics and bring in fecal sample.	Extreme Diarrhea: Extremely runny consistency like soup or stew. This can quickly escalate to an emergency situation
Diarrhea: Runny stool that lasts more than 24 hours. Start probiotics and bring in kitten & fecal sample.	Excessive Vomiting: Vomiting that is frequent and dehydrating kitten, can't keep anything down.
Vomiting: 3 or more times in 24 hours. If just food try feeding less and or feeding with less frequency.	Any Combination of Symptoms Above: Any combination of the symptoms above should be very concerning and warrant an immediate visit to the shelter. If after hours call the Emergency Line: 720-515-3678

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Kittens should receive a vaccine every 2-3 weeks from their first booster around 1 month of age until about 16 weeks of age.

If your kitten was under 1 lb. before going to foster or had a URI, they'll need to be scheduled for a vaccine visit once they have reached 1 lb. and 1 month of age or have completed their cycle of medication.

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LHS requires that all animals being made available for adoption be spayed or neutered. We perform surgeries in our shelter clinic Monday – Friday. Typically animals will not require spay/neuter surgery recovery time in a foster home.

Kittens must be healthy, no URI and at least 8 weeks of age and weigh 2 lbs. A nursing mother must be fully dried up before undergoing spay surgery.

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The Foster Care Coordinator will frequently check in to see when your kittens are large enough for surgery, at which time they will schedule surgery for the entire litter.

Foster animals can either be returned to the shelter the day prior to surgery to the intake desk anytime between 12:00 pm and 6:00 pm, or you can drop them off at the Well Pet Clinic entrance the morning of their surgery between 7:30 am and 8:00 am.



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Under socialized, neglected and frightened kittens can be the most challenging shelter animal to foster, however their transformation can be one of the most rewarding foster experiences.

Whenever possible LHS tries to place under socialized kittens in foster to give them an opportunity to be happy house cats. In the event that we're unable to socialize a kitten they are generally placed in the barn cat program.

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Do

- ✓ Make sure all human interactions are positive.
- ✓ Offer good "high value" food from your fingers or spoon resting on your fingers
- ✓ Play therapy! Sometimes releasing a kitten's instinct to play and hunt can be a great bonding moment.
- ✓ Go slowly and be patient
- ✓ Keep them in a small space, under socialized kittens have a tendency to like to hide, it can be very hard to find them if they have the run of the house.
- ✓ Use a towel to wrap them "burrito style" if they're hard to handle



Don't

- Put yourself in danger of being bit. Use a towel or gloves if your kitten appears to be willing to bite you.
- Don't worry if your kitten doesn't seem to be making progress. Just be patient and give it more time, some kittens are hard nuts to crack.
- Don't get angry or strike the kitten. It's very important to keep every interaction as positive as possible.
- Don't be in a rush when handling the kitten. They need slow calm movements that assure them they won't be harmed.

Occasionally LHS will have a litter of kittens that are under socialized. These kittens can range from being shy and scared to combative. Its important for these kittens to undergo a lot of handling and have many positive human interactions. Use the chart below to see where your kitten is at in its level of sociability.

Initially

- **Kittens may be hissing, spitting, growling and try to bite.**
- Burrito Kittens
- Hand feed wet food or baby food (or use a spoon to feed)
- Pick them up and put them down frequently to get them used to being approached.
- Play soft music or talk radio at all times

5-7 Days

- **If Your kitten is still hissing and spitting but improving.**
- Continue handling, increase playtime, work on getting kittens used to approaching while playing.
- **If your kittens are still hissing on approach but responsive and warming up to being pet**
- Continue to focus on handling to gain more of their trust. Hand feed and play interactively with them.

10-14 Days

- **If your kitten is purring and relaxed when being handled**
- Congratulate yourself on a job well done!
- **Still a little hissy or shy**
- Some kittens may always be a little shy but try keeping them just a little longer and help them through their fears by continuing the steps above.
- **No change or improvement in behavior**
- Contact the foster department. Some kittens just don't come around to being social and could be a great part of the barn cat program!

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dwhuv1

Urxwqh#Fhdq}kj #Z klh#N lwhqv#duh#q#Erwvhu

You should plan on fully cleaning foster areas including, litter boxes, bowls, and bedding at least once per week.

Hard Surfaces

All surfaces (floors, walls, litter boxes and food/water bowls) should be cleaned with a solution of gentle soap and warm water at least once a week. They should be thoroughly rinsed and dried prior to kittens having access to the area.

Bedding & Soft Materials

Bedding for foster animals should be removed and replaced at least twice weekly. More often if soiled with vomit, urine or feces. Bedding should be washed in a washer with hot water with detergent but no fabric softener.

Fhdq}kj #Ehwz hhg#dwhuv#ru#Gxulqj #G lhdvh#R xweuhdnv#

Your foster area as well as everything your foster animals used during their stay should be fully cleaned and disinfected after your foster animals have been returned. Anything that can not be cleaned or disinfected should not be used for other litters. We suggest using bleach mixed 1 part bleach to 32 parts water to remove any lingering disease or contaminants between litters. Be sure to remove any organic matter (fur, hair, litter, dirt, etc..) before using bleach.

For disease outbreaks keep the foster animals in a crate in another isolated area of the household while you clean the room and other supplies. Be sure to thoroughly rinse all surfaces after the bleach application, and wash with gentle soap and water as well to be sure all traces have been removed.





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Congratulations you've made it to the kitten finish line! Your kitten has grown so much in the last few weeks and is now over 2lbs, social, happy and scheduled for surgery. You've done a great job in getting your kitten to this point and we know saying good-bye is hard. Take a minute and give yourself a pat o the back. Once your kitten returns to the shelter they will most likely be made available for adoption immediately.

Fdq#Irvhu#Sduhqw#DgrswB

You bet! Foster parents have the choice to adopt their foster pet, and receive a 20% discount on the animal's adoption fee. Contact the foster coordinator to place a no-cost hold on your foster animal as soon as you think you may want to adopt. Holds are handled on a first come first served basis.

Z kdw#i#d#u#hgg2idp b| #p hp ehuz dqw# w#DgrswB

Your friends and family can place a hold on a foster animal by calling 303-772-1232 and speaking to the intake desk. A hold fee will apply and they will be called as soon as the animal is available for adoption.

R q#wr #kh#gh { w#DgrswB

Are you missing having a foster baby already? You can prepare for your next litter by cleaning and disinfecting your foster room. The time between foster animals is a good time to make sure all your bedding, toys, food bowls etc. are in good condition and disinfected.

Feel free to contact the foster coordinator and see if there is any animals they have an immediate need for, and let them know you're available for the next litter!

Thank you for fostering!

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Why should a foster caregiver participate?

- The app is free!
- It will take up less space on smart phones than Facebook
- Through the app, foster caregivers can:
 - o Share valuable updates on foster pet health and behavior
 - o Send questions or comments
 - o Submit foster pet biographies, photos or videos to the organization for adoption
 - o Track foster pet weight and vaccinations
 - o Store 'favorite' resource documents for foster pet health or behavior
- The app is a great place for foster caregivers to get quick answers to concerns or questions they may have about their foster pet(s).
 - o If the foster caregiver reports a concern in a survey, the foster caregiver receives an immediate email response and notification to their phone. The response is crafted by veterinarians and behaviorists to provide education and direct them towards additional help, if needed.
 - Photos or videos can be submitted to describe health or behavioral issues, or simply as a nice way to share fun stories with LHS! Plus, quick and easy updates on the pet's biography can help get foster pets into their new adoptive homes.

Krz #w#Vljq#Ks

Currently we are using MPA for kitten litters, upon receiving a litter of kittens you'll have a user name and password emailed to you by Maddie's Fund.

The app is easy to use and since it's roll out in September it has headed off several potentially serious health issues in kitten litters.



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Q rq#Hp huj hqf | #Frqwd fw

Longmont Human Society

9595 Nelson Road
Longmont, CO 80501
303-772-1232

Foster Coordinator

303-772-1232 ex 234

foster@longmonthumane.org

Foster Office hours are generally Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm & Saturday 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. The shelter is staffed and open 7 days a week!

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Emergencies During Business Hours

Come right in! Please call the Foster Coordinator: 303-772-1232 ex. 234 on your way to the shelter if possible.

Emergencies After Shelter Hours

Emergency Line Number: 720-515-3678

Please feel free to contact a foster department staff member or the shelter with any health concerns, do not wait until it becomes an emergency!

