

What You Can Do About Kittens & Cats Living Outdoors

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SPCA OF TEXAS



**SPAY NEUTER
NETWORK**



**feral
friends**
COMMUNITY
CAT ALLIANCE



**Dallas
pets alive!**

**Dallas
cat lady**



You've found kittens - now what do you do?

1. Age the kittens (see chart below)

NEWBORN		1 WEEK		2 WEEKS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pink in color, umbilical cord attached, eyes closed• 97 degrees; can't regulate temp.		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• eyes closed, ears folded, no umbilical cord• eyes open at 8-12 days		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• eyes completely open, blue color• wobbly on their feet
3 WEEKS		4 WEEKS		5 WEEKS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• incisors emerging, ears unfolded• discovering litterbox		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• canines emerging• walking confidently & exploring their surroundings		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• premolars emerging• weaning slowly onto wet kitten food
6 WEEKS		7 WEEKS		8 WEEKS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• molars emerging• coordinated; like a miniature cat		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• all milk (deciduous) teeth have emerged• transitioning into adult eye color		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• once 2 pounds, kittens can be spayed/neutered and placed in their forever home!

KITTENLADY.ORG

If kittens are:

Under 8 weeks, continue with step 2 below

8 weeks or older, take to your local shelter

2. Condition of the kittens

Are the kittens warm with plump bellies? *Continue to step 3*

Are the kittens cold and/or show signs of illness (crusty eyes) or injury? *Take to your local shelter immediately.*

3. Monitor the kitten/litter for 24 hours, watching for mom visits

Often mom cats are away hunting and providing for the kittens; it is rare that a mother abandons a litter. It is best to leave kittens where they are for mom to care for them.

Make a circle around the kittens with flour so you can see traces of the mom's activity.

If undisturbed, take them to your local shelter.

If mom is caring for kittens, leave them undisturbed until they are 8 weeks of age.

Put food and water out for the mom. This will allow you to keep an eye on the family and trap, spay, and return mom once the kittens are weaned.

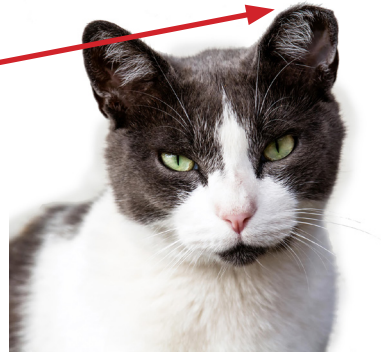
DO socialize the kittens - they will have a better chance at adoption if they are friendly.

You've found or see an adult cat - now what?

Taking a stray cat to the shelter does not help it to reunite with its owner. Over 50% of people allow their cats to free roam outdoors and less than 2% of cats in shelters are returned to their owners.

1. Is he/she fixed (spayed or neutered)?

Does the cat have a notched ear or tipped ear?
Tipped/notched ears are typically a clean cut, not a tear or rip from a fight wound.
If so, this indicates the cat is already spayed/neutered.
As long as the cat is healthy, please leave it where it is. This cat probably belongs to someone and/or is adequately able to provide for itself.
If not, continue to step 2.



2. Trap the cat

If you are not physically able to help with trapping, turn to the back for a list of community cat resource groups in your area.

- a. Obtain a trap - see back cover with resource groups listed with “*”
- b. Line the trap with newspaper - except on the trip plate
- c. Set trap with stinky canned food or tuna
- d. Cover the trap with a towel
- e. Set trap in area cat frequents
- f. Monitor/check on the trap every couple of hours
- g. When you catch a cat, cover the trap and move it to a safe, shaded area
- h. Transport cat in trap to spay/neuter clinic - see back panel for a location near you
Note: Put plastic in your car before transporting cat in trap.
- i. Pick up cat after surgery and hold it in a garage, covered patio for 24 hours
- j. Release it back to the area you found it

Note: Avoid trapping in inclement weather (extreme temperatures, heavy rain, etc.)

FAQ:

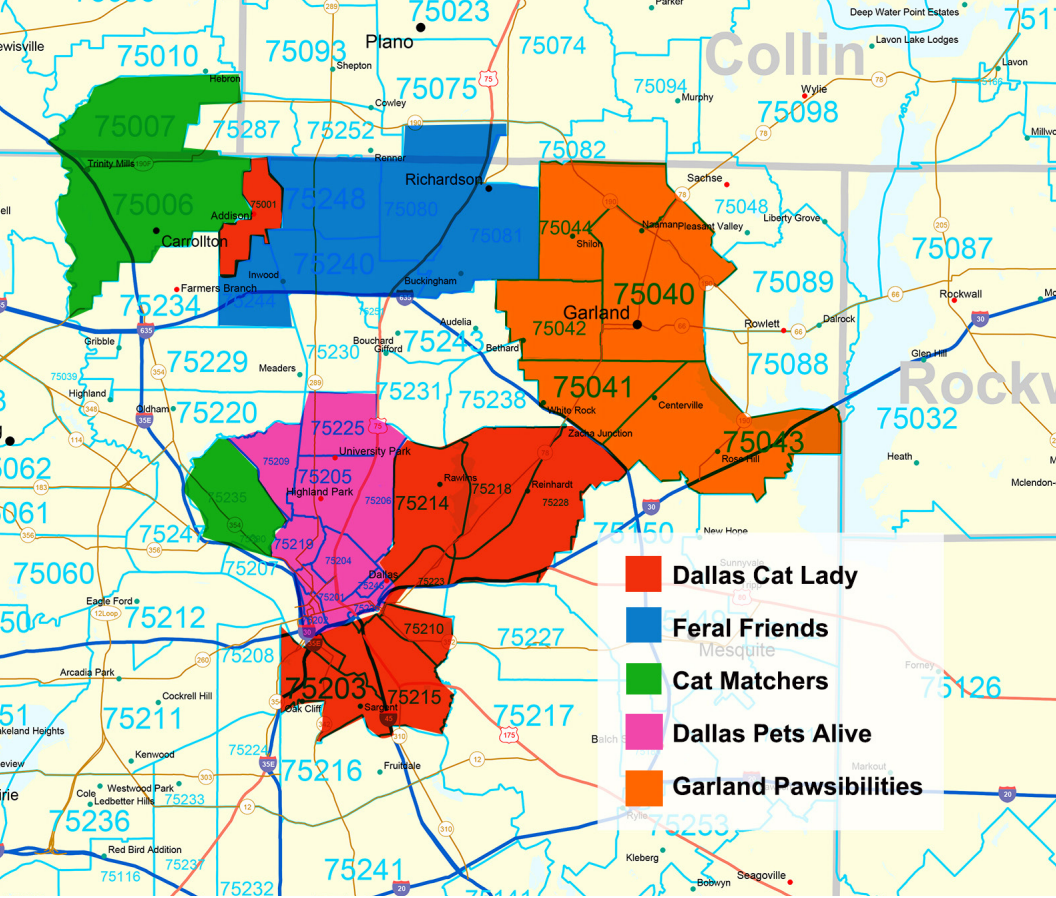
Should I feed found kittens?

The mom cat should provide all the nourishment the kittens need. Under no circumstances should you ever give kittens (or cats) cow milk. If you've looked for mom and can't find her, it's alright to feed them kitten food while you wait for mom to show up. Pet stores sell a powdered kitten meal replacement that is hydrated with water and if the kittens are old enough to eat on their own you can feed canned kitten food.

Should I move the kittens?

No - you should leave the kittens where you found them so the mom cat can return to care for them.

For More Information visit www.DFWKittenNetwork.com



Groups and resources:

- + **Cat Matchers** - catmatchers@yahoo.com 🐾 CatMatchers.org
 - *+ **Dallas Cat Lady** - DallasCatLadyAdoptions@gmail.com 🐾 DallasCatLady.org
 - *+ **Dallas Pets Alive** - 214-444-9372 🐾 tnr@dallaspetsalive.org
 - *+ **Feral Friends** - info@feralfriends.org 🐾 FeralFriends.org
 - *+^ **Garland Pawsibilities** - tnr@garlandpaws.org 🐾 GarlandPawsibilities.org/tnr
 - *^ **Spay Neuter Network** - 972-472-3500 🐾 SpayNeuterNet.org
 - *^ **SPCA of Texas** - 214-742-SPCA (7722) 🐾 SPCA.org
- * = Will loan traps + = Will assist with trapping ^ = Spay/neuter clinic

If no other resources will help, as a last resort, Dallas Animal Services is available for intake of all kittens and cats found in the City of Dallas.
DallasAnimalServices.org 🐾 214-670-6800 🐾 1818 N Westmoreland Rd., Dallas, TX 75212

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