

ACTION 4 ANIMALS HAWAII FOSTERING HANDBOOK

This information is property of Action 4 Animals Hawaii unless otherwise noted and is to be used as a guide for our cat foster parents only. We are not medical professionals.



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ON INTAKE

NOSE TO TAIL EXAM

You can use our Nose to Tail Exam worksheet to get started. It covers all the basics.

Action 4 Animals Hawaii		Date _____
NOSE TO TAIL EXAM		
Animal Name _____	Boy ☐ Girl ☐	
Weight (in grams, 454g=1lb)		
Temp (normal 100.5F to 102.5F)		
Eyes (clean, clear or colored discharge, ulcers, etc.)		
Ears (clean, gooney, coffee grounds = ear mites)		
Mouth/Teeth/Gums (color)		
Skin/Coat (healthy, dry, missing hair)		
Body (any lumps, bumps)	___ YES ___ NO	
Fixed?	___ YES ___ NO	
Chipped?	___ YES ___ NO	
Injuries? (Limping, cuts, bruises)	___ YES ___ NO	
Fleas/Lice (use flea comb)	___ YES ___ NO	
Panacur (5-7 days, repeat in 2 weeks)	Date started: _____	
Tolt (1 dose on intake unless more needed)	Date started: _____	
Flea Meds (only if fleas seen, give before adoption)	Date given: _____	
Vaccinations (4 weeks or on intake)	Date given: _____ Repeat every 3 weeks till adoption	
Combo Test (for kittens should be done when s/n, or have mom tested)	Date given: _____	

1. Weigh them. This will help with the dosage of meds and give you a baseline. It's best to weigh in grams, especially for tinies. It's more accurate and you can detect small changes.

2. Address any medical issues. Gooney eyes? Lcky poo? Any sores or injuries? Check ears for black goo. See "What to do if ..." section for first level solutions.

3. Check for ringworm. Use your black light to check for clear signs of ringworm. It will glow bright green. Even

one hair of ringworm means quarantine and starting ringworm protocols. NOTE: Ringworm does not always glow. Watch for dry skin. Be aware and recheck often. Google for photo examples. Tails, inside of arms, and ears are common locations.

4. **Do they have fleas?** If so, give them a Dawn bath, flea meds, or a dose of topical flea medication. If you give a Dawn bath you'll need to wait 2-3 days for the oils in their skin to replenish before a topical flea medication will be effective. Dawn does not kill fleas, but does "stun" them so they are easier to remove with a flea comb.

See dosage chart in Flea Section for topical medications. Capstar is also a great option. It can be mixed into food or given with a syringe, and given once a day for several days until fleas are under control.

5. **Start them on dewormer.** Panacur is our preferred dewormer. .25ml/pound for 5-7 days, then repeat every 2-3 weeks as long as they are in our care. Tolt .18ml/lb for 1 day, increase to 3 days if poo is icky. See Icky Poo section if you are still having issues.

6. **Vaccinate!** Our protocol per the Best Friends Shelter Medicine program is to vaccinate on intake or at 4-6 weeks, and then every 3-4 weeks while in care. Our goal is to have at least 2 vaccinations given if possible. **If you are taking in an Animal Control kitten, double check they haven't already been given a vax.**

7. **Start their medical card & put them in "the system".** You should have an Action 4 Animals Hawaii blue medical record. Start a log for your new foster which will go with them when adopted. Before they go for adoption, make sure to update them in our ShelterLuv system so their new parents get all the info electronically as well.

8. **Isolate.** It is always best to have a space where you can isolate your new fosters until you know they are healthy. Wire kennels can be borrowed from A4A. Talk to your foster mentor to arrange pickup. Isolation is typically recommended for 7-14 days. See Isolation/Fostering Space for more information.

ON ADOPTION DAY STARTING THEIR NEW LIFE OUT RIGHT

You've finally done it! Your ball of fluff is ready for a cubby, adoption fair, and finally their new home! **The following is required for all Action 4 Animals Hawaii adoptions:**

1. **Action 4 Animals Hawaii blue health card**, completed with all their requirements marked. You can also add things that will help the new parent like the type of food or litter the kitty likes, or where they were found, and what their favorite toy is. Also include your name and contact info in case the new parent has any questions.
2. **Make sure kitty is up to date on vaccinations.** Current requirements are for a vaccination to be given at intake or at 4-6 weeks, and then every 3-4 weeks while in care until 4 months old or leave our care.
3. **Make sure your kitty has been tested for FIV/FelV.** This is typically done when they are spay/neutered. Please contact your mentor if you have any questions.
4. **Make sure kitty is up to date on their flea meds.**
5. **Has kitty been dewormed?** Minimum of 5 days of Panacur is required and preferred to have a second round 2 weeks after the first. Kitty should not have diarrhea.
6. **Kitty should be spay/neutered and chipped.** Chip should be recorded on both the paper health form AND in Shelterluv.

7. **Update Shelterluv** - Shelterluv is our database system. It automatically sends medical records to the new parents, and is the core system for keeping track of fosters and logging our numbers for grant and stats purposes. It is VERY important to keep your kitty updated in the system!

Before your kitty can be adopted or attend an adoption fair you must have their medical info updated, chip number recorded, and have them set to Available Foster or Pre-Adopt Available.

8. **Advertise!** Take cute pictures and upload them to Shelterluv along with a great description. This will appear on our website once your kitty is set to Available Foster or Pre-Adopt Available status. You can also do your own advertising, talk to friends, share on social media.
9. **Interview potential adopters.** Good questions to ask when considering a new parent are:
- Do you have any other animals in your household? If you have dogs, have they ever been around cats? You will need to do a very slow (possibly over several weeks) introduction.
 - Have you had cats before? Do you have any questions about bringing a cat into the family?
 - Will the kitty be indoor or indoor/outdoor? (We typically do not adopt outdoor only cats unless they are “working cats”). The kitty will need to be kept inside for several weeks while they get used to their new home.
10. **If you are doing a private adoption**, we can process it through our Shelterluv system which will send a text or email to the adopter. They complete the application and make payment electronically. Ask your mentor to help process the adoption if it's cash or check. The adoption fee is \$100 for kittens, \$160 for a pair of kittens, and \$80 for an adult 1 year or older. Working cats are \$90 for a pair.

QUICK ADOPTION CHECKLIST

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ <u>Health Card</u> | ☐ <u>Chipped</u> |
| ☐ <u>FIV/FelV Tested</u> | ☐ <u>All info recorded in</u> |
| ☐ <u>Flea Meds</u> | <u>ShelterLuv AND kitty is</u> |
| ☐ <u>Dewormed</u> | <u>marked as either</u> |
| ☐ <u>Vaccinations</u> | <u>Available Foster, Pre-</u> |
| ☐ <u>Spay/Neutered</u> | <u>Adopt Available, or</u> |
| | <u>Adopted</u> |

SAMPLE HEALTH CARD

HELPFUL RESOURCES

MOST IMPORTANT:

REGISTER YOUR MICROCHIP!

Register at freepetchipregistry.com and petcolove.org for FREE. Unregistered microchipped pets run a very high risk not getting home if lost. You can also register your chip on the chip manufacturer's website for a small fee.

PETCO VACCINATIONS:

Petco offers vaccination clinics. Check their sandwich board in the front lobby for dates. Sign up at <https://oahuspca.org/Petco-Vaccine-Clinics>

FIND A VET:

It's a great idea to set up a wellness appointment with your current or future veterinarian. It's sometimes difficult to get to a doctor in an emergency, and having an established relationship is definitely helpful! Bring this brochure with you so they know what medications have already been administered.

WHAT'S AN EAR TIP:

Many A4A Hawaii kitties have an ear tip. This is a badge of honor - it assures if they get lost and found, that they will never undergo anesthesia and unnecessary spay/neuter surgery. It also lets their finder know they are likely chipped. More info can be found at action4animalshawaii.com/eartips



Action for Animals Hawaii

You have adopted this kitten through A4A - Action for Animals Hawaii.

If you have questions or need help, especially within the first two weeks, please let us know. We want you to have the most successful adoption possible!

You can reach us at
A4AHawaii@gmail.com

The Action 4 Animals Hawaii foster parent for your new kitty was:

Your Name

Name

Your Phone Number

Phone Number



*We love to see pictures of your new family!
Feel free to text or email!*

FELINE HEALTH RECORD

FELINE INFORMATION

Name: *Fluffy*

Date of Birth: *1/1/24*

Breed: *Domestic longhair*

Male Female

Spayed / Neutered Date: *3/1/24*

Markings: *Black and white with*

MICROCHIP

(register for FREE at lost.petcolove.org and freepetchipregistry.com or for a small fee at the manufacturers site)

Manufacturer: *Nanochip*

ID Number:

Unregistered microchipped pets run a very high risk of not being returned. if lost. Please register your pet!

QUESTIONS? SEE BACK OF CARD FOR ACTION 4 ANIMALS CONTACT INFO.

MEDICAL HISTORY

DATE | EXPLANATION

*3/1/24 Feline Leukemia (FeLV)
NEG. POS*

Feline Aids (FIV)
NEG. POS

CURRENT FOOD

A little Friskies or Tastefuls wet food morning and night. Free-feed good quality dry food like Iams or Costco-brand. Loves temptation treats and churu squeeze ups!

Canned pumpkin, probiotic powder & fish oil added to wet food are great for digestion!

FLEA MED SCHEDULE

DATE | PRODUCT

*3/1/24 Bravecto (good for 2 months)
5/1/24 Revolution*

Nitenpyram (called Quick Caps) kills adult fleas for 24 hours; add it to food 1-2 times/week to break the flea cycle. Order at puppybuttsupply.com

DEWORMING HISTORY

DATE | PRODUCT

*2/15-2/20/24 Panacur
2/15/24 Tolt
3/4-3/8/24 Panacur*

VACCINATION RECORD

DATE | PRODUCT

3/1/24



IF YOUR KITTY HAS HAD ONLY ONE VAX, CONTACT US FOR A FREE BOOSTER!

Note: Petfix uses a 3-way vaccine. Rhinotracheitis, Panleukopenia, and Calici. We do not provide a FeLV vax - check with your vet for more info.

For ongoing vaccinations, Petco offers a low-priced vax clinic. Check their board in the lobby to sign up.

NOTES:

Fluffy is the best kitty! She loves balls and springs. She has been a joy to foster!

EAR TIP EDUCATION

You might notice that cats that are fixed at Petfix Spay & Neuter, our primary source of spay/neuter services, requires ALL CATS be ear tipped without exception. If you do a pre-adoption (adopted before spay/neuter then picked up afterward) it is important that you let the new foster parent know that it is a requirement and why.

Be positive - this is a GOOD thing!

What's an ear tip?

An ear tip is the process of removing a tiny bit off the tip of one of the cat's ears. Ear-tipping is extremely safe and is performed while the cat is already anesthetized for spay or neuter surgery. There is little or no bleeding involved, and it is not painful to the cat. The ear heals up quickly. You can request a "Light Tip" when checking your kitty in at the clinic.

Why do we tip?

An ear tip is the universally recognized symbol of a cat who has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated. In Hawaii County, it also means they are likely microchipped. If they are lost, they can quickly be returned to their owner.

In a culture where dumping cats or relocating cats is far too common, the ear tip is a clear sign that they have been cared for in the past. If trapped or found, they will not be put under anesthesia again to have surgery, only to find it was unnecessary.

Their Their Left or Right?

If the LEFT ear is tipped, it means a BOY.

If the RIGHT ear is tipped, it means a GIRL.

FLEA MEDS - QUICK OPTIONS

Dawn bath. This is typically used for young kittens on intake if they are heavily flea infested. You must wait a few days after a bath to give topical medications, as they need time to build up their skin oils. **Dawn does not kill the fleas, but stuns them so they are easier to remove with a flea comb.**

Nitenpyram (Capstar) in pill form is quick acting (within 30 minutes). You can give one a day until there are no fleas left. For small kittens, give half a pill. When Selahold (Revolution) doesn't work, try Capstar.

Note that Revolution or it's generic form, Selahold, also helps with additional parasites. It is the preferred flea medication for Action 4 Animals Hawaii in cats more than 2 pounds. Topicals are preferred for long-term parasite mitigation.

Revolution Plus is a stronger version of flea meds, and also helps with items such as lice and mites. It's more expensive and must be purchased from a vet. It's topical and works the same was as regular Revolution.

We often buy large dog amounts of topicals and break it down per the following chart as a more cost effective solution when many cats need to be treated.

Animal Control has started to use a topical called Bravecto. If you see this on your kitty's medical records, it's flea meds good for 60 days until the typical 30 of Revolution.

NOTE: NEVER EVER GIVE THESE MEDICATIONS ORALLY!

(see next page for topical medication dosage chart)

TOPICAL FLEA MEDS - REVOLUTION

VERY IMPORTANT! Verify if you have the 120mg/ml version or the 240mg/ml version! Also known as Selahold..

Cat Weight (lbs)	120 mg/ml dosage
2-2.99 lbs	0.11ml
3-3.99 lbs	0.14ml
4-4.99 lbs	0.16ml
5-5.99 lbs	0.18ml
6-6.99 lbs	0.20ml
7-7.99 lbs	0.23ml
8-8.99 lbs	0.25ml
10-10.99 lbs	0.29ml
11-11.99 lbs	0.32ml
12-12.99 lbs	0.34ml
13-13.99 lbs	0.36ml

TOPICAL FLEA MEDS - REVOLUTION +

Cat Weight (lbs)	Dosage
2.8 = 5.5lb	.25ml
5.6 = 11lb	.5ml
11.1-22lb	1ml

Treatment is typically good for 30 days, but in severe cases can be reapplied after 14 days.

For kittens under 2 pounds give 1/4 tab of Nitenpyram diluted in water and given orally with a syringe OR 2 drops of **TOPICAL Advantage II**. **NEVER EVER GIVE TOPICAL MEDS ORALLY!**

VACCINATIONS

Our standard vaccination is Nobivac Feline 1-HCPCh (Merck), FVRCP, Chlamydomphila vaccine. We purchase them from Revival Health.

Petfix uses the 3-way vaccine from Revival.

Animal Control's vaccination is Fel-O-Guard Plus 3 (Elanco).

Per the Best Friends Shelter Medicine protocol, we vaccinate on intake or at 4-6 weeks (around 1.5 pounds), whichever is later. Then vaccinate 2-4 weeks later.

Our goal is to have at least 2 vaccinations given before the kitty goes to it's new home. If they will be fixed at a clinic that does provides a vaccination, make sure to get their first vax a few weeks before reaching 2 pounds so they can be available for adoption right after!

Adults may only need 1 vaccination, as they have already developed some immunity.

SHELTERLUV

Shelterluv is our animal and adoption management system. This holds all our data - adopters, fosters, foster kitties and pups. It is our hub for microchip numbers and health information.

Shelterluv interfaces directly with our website to show all animals available for adoption. Each foster parent has access to this system for basic animal management. You can update medical info, pictures, descriptions, chip numbers, and change your foster's availability.

To log into the full version of Shelterluv go to new.shelterluv.com.

For help using Shelterluv, or to use the "lite" version called Fosterluv, go to the help files on our Kitty Foster Resources webpage. Under Resources for Fosters section.

<http://www.action4animalshawaii.com/kittyfosterresources>

WHAT TO DO IF

RINGWORM

What to do:

- If you detect ringworm with your blacklight, or see **ANY** suspicious signs (missing hair, dry skin), **immediately isolate kitty**. If other kittens have been in direct, regular contact, **isolate together**. Isolation means to separate cats from other fosters or your cats. If you need a wire kennel we can loan you one. Keeping in a separate room is also an option. Do not let them roam your home!

Ringworm can show up in many forms. Google search for "Ringworm cat images" to see what it looks like so you can easily identify.

Isolation may seem mean, but it is not. Unconfined ringworm can spread to you, your children, your other pets. While not dangerous, it is highly contagious and uncomfortable. **Take it seriously!**

Treatment for ringworm takes time and diligence. It's a combination of four items:

- Sulfur Lime Dip twice a week. This does not get rinsed off, just let kitty dry. It smells horrible, but works. Alternatively, you can purchase a miconazole shampoo which you leave on for 10-15 minutes before rinsing.
- Topical Miconazole (Monostat 7) applied twice a day to impacted areas.
- Itraconazole (Intrafungol) oral medication. It has now been approved by the vet that oral medication can be given 21 days IN A ROW without breaks. See dosage chart.

CLEANING PROTOCOL FOR RINGWORM

- Wash everything fabric with hot water and bleach, if at all possible. Rescue spray cleaner (available for fosters) can be used on hard surfaces and on items that cannot be put in the washer. Ringworm can hang around for quite a while, so quarantine and cleaning is extra important! Leave as few soft surfaces in the quarantine area as possible and switch them out and wash regularly.
- For yourself, washing with dandruff shampoo and moisturizing your skin are great ways to keep safe!

Wood's Lamp (black light) Color Meanings

White	Areas of thick skin (or possibly lint from clothing).
Yellow	Oily skin
Purple	Dry or dehydrated skin
If your skin shows another color or glows (fluorescent or luminescent), it might reveal an infection or other condition. For example:	
Bright blue-white	Might identify hypopigmentation (too little pigment)
Brown	Might identify hyperpigmentation (too much pigment)
Blue-green	Might reveal certain fungal infections
Coral pink	May suggest a bacterial infection
Pink-red	Might mean porphyria
White or gray spots	Might indicate head lice
Yellow or orange	Can help identify certain yeast

LICE

- Cat lice CANNOT transfer to other animals or people. Lice are species-specific. They look like tiny white or brown 6-legged insects and can be hard to see. Their eggs are tiny white oval shaped dots that stick to hairs.
- Also watch for patchy hair.

What to do:

- Revolution, or Selehold, usually fights fleas and lice. It can be given every 2 weeks if it's a severe case.
- Revolution Plus is even better. We try to keep a limited supply on-hand, as it's expensive.
- If Revolution doesn't work, Capstar (nitenpyram) can be given. We also recommend a lime sulphur dip.

ICKY EARS

- Check ears with a Q-tip: if there is black sticky stuff down there, they have ear mites.
- The ear canal makes a 90* turn, so you won't poke the eardrum with a Q-tip.
- Ear mite killer (purchased at big box stores) is best, but mineral oil can work if used daily for a week or more.

ICKY EYES

- Start with a soft, warm cloth or cotton pad with saline solution or warm water and clean the cats eyes.
- Terramycin gel is commonly used, but can sting. Triple Antibiotic Ointment is another option.
- Do not give steroid-containing ointment if any ulcers or injuries to the cornea are present. Check the label.
- Ciprofloxacin drops can also be used.

UPPER RESPIRATORY INFECTION (URI)

What to do:

- If you see clear or colored discharge from eyes or nose. Coughing, sneezing, swollen membranes around eyes, lethargy, fever, Isolate kitty
- Gently clean any discharge with a warm, soft cloth. Terramycin gel can be used on eyes.
- Encourage to eat and drink - you don't want them to get dehydrated. Kitten Lyte or unflavored Pedialyte can be given to improve hydration. Note that Pedialyte has a short life once opened and should be stored in the fridge.
- If kitty is not eating, syringe feeding is an option. You should have been given 3ml syringes with a tip. Use this to feed water, Pedialyte, meat-based human baby food, or pate cat food "slurry".
- When syringe feeding a kitten, sit kitten on your lap with their head up and feet down. Slowly syringe in food. This is a very slowly process. Liquids can be "dripped". Rub the baby's throat to make sure they are swallowing.
- If breathing difficulty because of congestion, you can put them in the bathroom with the door closed and a steamy shower to loosen mucus.
- Especially for young kittens, provide a heating pad on low that they can choose to be on or off of.
- Possibly start on Doxycycline or Azithromycin antibiotics - check with your foster mentor for medication recommendations.

Recommended antibiotics in order or intensity:

Doxycycline

Azithromycin

Enrofloxacin (Baytril) - use VERY rarely

Clavamox is often prescribed by Big Island doctors, but is typically for soft issue wounds.

NOTE: Never feed a cold kitten! If they aren't feeling well, take their temp before giving food.

FEVER

- A cat's normal body temperature is 100.4° to 102.5° Fahrenheit, and a fever is a temperature of more than 102.5° F. A pediatric rectal thermometer is the most accurate way to take a cat's temperature.
- To take a cat's temp, put a little vaseline on the end of the thermometer, insert into the cat's anus, turn on and wait. It will beep when ready to read.
- Keep kitty hydrated. Water, Hydracare, or Pedialyte, or Kitten Lyte are options.
- Use a damp cloth (with water or rubbing alcohol) on kitty's paws, nose, and ears.
- A dark room with cool tile floors or a fan can be helpful.
- Place a cold pack with a blanket over it under kitty

OPEN WOUND

- If there is bleeding, apply pressure to the wound with a clean gauze or cloth.
- Clean the wound with a warm, soft cloth.
- Apply antiseptic solution such as diluted Chlorhexidine, colloidal silver gel, or honey (NOT Neosporin, as it's toxic to cats)
- Keep wound clean and allow it to breath. Watch for signs of infection.
- Let your foster mentor know about the situation. All vet visits must be pre-approved whenever possible. Your foster mentor might advise Clavomox oral medication.

LIMPING

- Feel the injured limb - does it feel normal or out of joint? Is there swelling, “heat”, or obvious distress? Is something in their foot?
- If it feels normal, it could just be sprained. Isolate the kitty, preferably in a kennel or place that is just big enough for a litter box, food, and a bed. You want to keep them contained and off the limb as much as possible.
- Let your foster mentor know about the situation. All vet visits must be pre-approved whenever possible. If it is a sprain, they should regain regular use in a day or two.

CALICI VIRUS

- We have recently run into some cases of Calici Virus. If you notice symptoms similar to a URI, with added limping or sores inside the mouth or eye ulcers that don't get better, it could be Calici Virus.
- This is very contagious and there is no medication to give, only treatment of symptoms. Make sure kitty is hydrated, syringe feed if needed. Medicated eye drops and eye ointment. Keep kitty comfortable and limit contact with other animals. It is not contagious to people.
- Let your foster mentor know the situation.

RUNNY STOOL

Because so many digestive issues look similar, preventative treatment given to all foster cats is: Panacur at .25ml/lb for 5-7 days and Tolt for 1-3 days. Probiotics once a month are recommended. Pumpkin puree in food also helps.

For chronic issues, take a clean stool sample (as little litter as possible, and as fresh as possible) to Kilauea Vet and ask for a fecal to be done. This typically costs \$15 and will be reimbursed by A4A. Let your mentor know the results.

Isolating any sick kitties, or treating all cats who have been exposed, is recommended. Most stomach issues are transmitted through feces, so clean litter boxes and hand washing is essential.

Cause	Symptoms	Treatment
Roundworms Hookworms Whipworms Lungworms	Diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, dull coat, pot-bellied, lethargy	Panacur
Tapeworms	Rice-like or white worm segments can be seen in cat's stool. Scooting or rubbing. Weight loss or increased appetite.	Praziquantel (commonly called TapeX)
Coccidia	Diarrhea (watery, loose, or bloody. Usually yellow and stinky). Vomiting, dehydration, weight loss, lethargy, loss of appetite, fever.	Totrazuril (3 days) OR Albon (5-30 days)
Giardia	Diarrhea (severe, chronic, can be bloody), vomiting, loss of appetite, weight loss, dehydration, lethargy, stinky breath	Panacur and/or Metronidazole (twice a day). Can be given together.
Spirochete	Fever, lethargy, decreased appetite, vomiting, diarrhea. Increased thirst and urination, could be jaundice (yellowing of skin or eyes)	Metronidazole and/or doxycycline Bland diet (boiled chicken, etc.)

Cat Stool Chart

Add pumpkin and probiotics to food. Increase water intake with Kitten Lite or HydraCare.

What You See	Type of Stool	What it Means	
	Unable to pass stool at all, straining in the litter box.	Severe constipation.	If your cat is unable to pass stool for 48-72 hours, contact a veterinarian.
	Hard, pebble-like stool.	Constipation.	Consider dietary adjustments.
	Smooth or slightly lumpy, sausage-shaped.	Healthy stool.	No action necessary.
	Formed, but mushy.	Soft feces, generally caused by minor irritation.	Generally not a cause for concern, as long as it resolves within a few days and is not accompanied by other signs of illness.
	Watery, soupy stool.	Diarrhea.	See a vet if diarrhea continues for more than a day, is accompanied by signs of illness, or if your cat is a young kitten.
	Mucous.	Clear (sometimes white or slightly yellow), slimy mucus indicates bowel irritation and points to parasites or another form of infection.	See a veterinarian.
	Red blood.	Red blood in stool means that there is irritation near the rectum or anus.	See a vet ASAP or immediately if there is a lot of blood.
	Black, tarry.	Usually means that there is bleeding in the upper GI tract.	See a vet immediately.
	Orange.	May point to liver or gallbladder problems.	See a veterinarian.
	Yellow.	Especially if it has a foul smell, this may indicate coccidia. May be caused by a bacterial overgrowth or imbalance.	See a veterinarian.
	Green or greenish.	Bacterial infection.	If your cat is unable to pass stool for 48-72 hours, contact a veterinarian

SYRINGE FEEDING

There are times when your kitty might not feel well and is not eating or drinking. Your foster mentor might suggest “syringe feeding”. This is when you take soft food - watered down canned pate food, meat-based baby food, Hydracare - and suck it up into a syringe. The process works like bottle feeding. See the image to the right on how to hold and feed your kitten.



QUARANTINE/ISOLATION

When a cat is sick, or when they first come to your household, quarantining the best way to evaluate them and prevent disease from spreading. You can be provided with a wire kennel if needed.

Quarantine space should have minimal fabrics or only fabric items that can be easily washed. Hard surfaces should be able to be cleaned with Rescue cleaner. Toys should be washable if possible.

Once kitties have “graduated” out of quarantine, they can get all the fancy toys and scratching posts!

FOOD

There are many kinds of food out there. Once your kitty is on solid food, here are a few options:

SLURRY:

Slurry is a mixture of pate-style wet cat food and either kitten milk or water. You can feed it in a bottle, a syringe, or on a plate. It's perfect for that time between a bottle and solid food. It's also good for a cat that isn't eating to keep them strong and hydrated - feed through a syringe just like they were a baby.

BABY FOOD:

Meat-based baby food, like Gerber or similar, are good to have on hand. It can be especially helpful for cats that are sick and don't want to eat, and can also be fed through a syringe or mixed with other food.

MARY'S MEDICINE TRICK

"I drain a can of mackerel and rinse it. Canned mackerel has a salt brine you want to try to get off. Blend with a little water, then freeze in ice cube trays.

When I give meds, I defrost a few cubes and put a little soupy mackerel over the medicine with some squeeze up treats on top. The babies love taking their medicine!"

CANNED CAT FOOD:

Typically canned or wet cat food is given once or twice a day. Costco brand, 4Health at Tractor Supply, or Friskies (not the best, but most available) are all options. Poultry-based wet cat food is best vs fish-based. Read labels!

DRY FOOD:

Dry food is the easiest and most convenient, and often the most affordable, option for feeding many cats. Costco's brand has very high quality ingredients and is recommended for good health. Iams, Blue, Hill's Science Diet, are all great options, but more costly. Look at the ingredients and avoid things like wheat as the first ingredients.

Dry food can be free-fed throughout the day unless you have a cat that just eats non-stop!

Avoid low-quality dry food such as Kit-n-Kaboodle or MeowMix. Read labels!

PUMPKIN:

Canned, pure pumpkin puree is an excellent source of fiber to add to canned kitten food. It's cheap and helps your canned wet food go further! Give 1/2-1 tsp once or twice a day in food.

FISH OIL:

Fish oil, such as the salmon oil you can order on Amazon, is great for kitty's coat. It can also help when they have issues like flea allergies - use flea meds like Capstar, then put a little fish oil in their wet food each night.

PROBIOTICS

Probiotics are a hot topic – for humans and animals alike. But not all probiotics are the same! Human probiotics are not ideal for animals and most products out there are not suited to live past the acid in the gut. Ideally, if you are wanting to give probiotics to your foster, you would want one specifically designed for the animal GI tract.

Probiotic should be given when your foster is experiencing GI distress – they can help regulate gas, bloating, diarrhea and constipation. Just like in us, animals need to have the proper balance of both good and bad bacteria in their intestines. Too much bad bacteria, and symptoms start to appear that can lead to serious health issues. Too much good bacteria (yes, there is such a thing) can lead to bloating, cramping, gas and diarrhea, too! So, remember that a little goes a long way.

The most important time to use a good quality, animal-targeted probiotic is following a course of antibiotics. These meds do not discriminate between the bad and the good bacteria in the body – they kill both. It is important to repopulate the gut quickly with probiotics, so the bad bacteria (which often grows back quicker) doesn't take over and lead to other health complications.

Probiotics are often used to curb diarrhea and to help in the resolution of constipation. Think of probiotics as a means to regulate good gut health. When the gut is healthy, your foster will be able to absorb the nutrition in the food you give. This leads to a stronger immune system and that leads to a long and healthy life.

If you have a nursing mom, you can give her the probiotic supplementation and she will pass it on in her milk to her babies! If you've given the babies antibiotics, however, you

will need to give them a dose of probiotics of their own in order to quickly colonize their gut.

It is said that in a pinch, a little plain yogurt can help regulate the gut – but remember, most yogurt is made from cow's milk and that is not easily digested by a kitten or young cat.

Better to avoid cow milk products all together while they are young.

There are several products out there that are commonly used for foster animals:

Bene-Bac Plus Pet Gel or powder, by Ag-Pet. Both can be easily mixed in with milk and food. These products have fat-encapsulated microorganisms to help make it through the acid of the stomach. This would be a good choice for bottle babies as it's easy to mix in with their milk.

Pro-Pets Probiotic from Vital Nutrients is an excellent supplement that comes in a small pill form. More appropriate for slightly older kittens that are eating on their own, as well as older cats. No need for hiding these in food – they'll eat them right from your hand like a tasty treat.

Once again, a little goes a long way. One dose will usually regulate gut health, or two doses, a day apart, should be enough to right more stubborn GI issues. For adult cats and dogs, probiotics are generally not needed, as so many commercial foods have pre and probiotics added into them. If, of course, your cat or dog is having a digestive issue, then probiotic supplementation would be wholly warranted and monthly supplementation might be a welcome addition to an older cat's diet.

LITTER BOXES

Different cats like different things, but here's a general guide on the various types of litter boxes and litter.

Low-sided box for small kittens. These are also good to bring to adoption events or when cats are in kennels.

Taller, adult box, with or without a hood

Fancy cat boxes - range from spendy to REALLY spendy!

Litter box inside a Rubbermaid tote - This is our experts preferred method! Cut a hole in the front and put a litter box inside to keep litter off the floor.

Regular clay litter - The standard you find at almost all stores.

Lightweight clay litter - for those of us who can't or don't like to lift!

Pellet Litter - Available at Tractor Supply, this is one of the cheapest forms of cat litter. It's made out of compressed sawdust so it's biodegradable.

Corn, shells, newspaper, and other alternative materials

Litter Attractant - Available from pet stores and Amazon, this can be added to regular litter to do exactly what the name says - attract your kitty to use the litter box.

Cleaning Protocol for Litterboxes

It's best to scoop the litterbox at least once a day, twice is even better. Once a week it should be emptied, cleaned, sprayed with Rescue cleaner, and allowed to dry.

CLEANING PROTOCOLS

Think about your space

When “designing” your foster space, it’s good to have as many hard, easy to clean surfaces as possible, especially for the first two weeks of fostering when the most health issues will appear. Soft surfaces such as beds and cat trees should be washable if at all possible.

Cleaning vs Disinfectant

Cleaning is what you do every day. You see a mess, you wipe it up. You use a regular cleaner and make it look nice.

Disinfecting is a deeper clean! Dilute Rescue or Bleach as directed, then spray the surface. Wait about 10 minutes before wiping down with a clean rag. Do walls first, then floors. Make sure to also disinfect water and food bowls, then rinse thoroughly.

Kitten Lady has a great video on deep cleaning between litters. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxSJqk7Opdo>

Disinfectant

The best disinfectant to use is Rescue. Action 4 Animals Hawaii does have a limited supply of Rescue, which is used in shelters. If you need some, please let us know! Rescue does not have to be rinsed after application. Rescue is mixed 1:16.

You can also use a 1:32 diluted bleach and water, but will need to rinse afterward.

Cleaning Toys

Hard toys that can easily be cleaned should be washed in soap and water, then set out to dry.

Fabric beds, blankets, hammocks, or fabric toys can go into the wash with bleach and dried on high heat.

Items such as scratching posts, crinkle balls, cardboard scratchers, toys with feathers, and soft sided playpens are more difficult. They can be wiped down and vacuumed, but keep in mind if you have something icky - like ringworm - they may need to be thrown out.

ENCLOSURES

It's always good to keep your little ones separate, for at least a week, to make sure they are healthy and you aren't spreading anything unknowingly. While having a catio or a separate room is amazing, not everyone has that ability. Here are a few ideas that requires minimal space.

Rubbermaid Totes

When kittens are very small, a rubber made tote are a great way to keep them safe. It's big enough for a heating pad and easy enough to move from room to room if needed.

Wire Kennels

Wire kennels, like we use at adoption events, are very good for your quarantine period. The tall, three tiered kennels with shelves are better for when they are bigger cats/kittens. You can make ramps, hang things from the ceiling, add beds and food and litterbox levels. Just watch that tiny guys don't sneak out between the bars! Escape artists!

Playpens

Playpens, especially those with a zip top, are good for kittens that are growing and need a bit of room to play. You can also alternate them between a kennel and playpen for variety.

Plexi Panels

Some people use plexi-panel dividers to set up their kitten space. There are lots of examples of living/play spaces on the Orphan Kitten Facebook group.

A Dedicated Kitten Room

For bigger fosters, a spare room is best. It gives them a little space while still keeping them isolated. If you have the luxury of this extra space, think about what you have in that room - little spaces where kitties can hide, put away blind cables that kitties might get caught in. Think like a kitten!

SOCIALIZATION

Sometimes you get a kitty that needs a little bit more love. They may be shy or a little hissy. **DON'T GIVE UP ON THEM!** We never know what these little creatures have gone through before we've gotten them.

Typically kitties under 12 weeks old still have a chance at socialization, but time is crucial.

DON'T let them run around your house. They will immediately hide under the sofa, bookcase, flower pot. That's not fun for anyone and doesn't get them closer to being snuggle bugs.

DO keep them in an enclosed space where they feel safe and where you can reach them.

DO keep that enclosure in a place that you frequent. For example, your office or living room is a great option if you are there frequently. Talk to them. Spend time near them. Let them get used to your presence.

DO use toys that encourage interaction. Wand toys, especially those with bells, are great for pets when you can't get close enough. Lazer toys, crunch balls, springs.

DO use treats like Temptations or Churu Squeeze Ups to form a bond. Shaking the treats lets them know good things are coming!

SOMETIMES bringing in a more social kitty can be helpful. This is especially true if it's a shy solo kitten. They might just not know how to be a cat.

SOMETIMES switching up foster parents could also be helpful. It would get them used to different environments and help them get to know more people.

BOTTLE BABIES

How to determine age.

Weight is not a good determination of age, but kittens under 4 weeks should be weighed every day. Watch for weight loss.

Does the kitten have teeth?

No teeth or if in front only, or front and sides? If none or just starting in front, they are three weeks or less and need a heat source and bottle with kitten milk replacer. Never feed a cold kitten, warm them slowly first.

Back teeth start coming in at 4 weeks. This is a wonderful age chart:

<https://www.alleycat.org/resources/kitten-progression/>

Additional items needed for bottle baby care

- 3 ml feeding syringes are “Leur slip”, they have a point to insert into the mouth; “leur lock” syringes allow the needle to be twisted on so they don't fall off, but don't work well for feeding.
- Excellent nipples can be ordered at wxicof.com. We usually have some on hand. Miracle nipples also work.
- Heating pad that does not have a timer off.
- Baby blankets/towels
- Kennel or carrier for kittens. A big Rubbermaid or plastic container works well, too.
- Bottles and nipples
- Milk replacer (see emergency replacer recipe below)
- Shaker/Mixer bottle (not required, but helpful)
- Shallow dishes for when they are ready to eat real food

Weaning

Switching to solid food usually happens around 4-1/2-5 weeks old. There are some great videos on how to do this by Googling “Weaning Kittens Kitten Lady”.

Kitten Milk Replacer Recipes

If you don't have KMR or similar, here is a recipe that can get you by. You can also use goat's milk if it is available.

1/2 C evaporated milk, 1/2 C water, 1/2 C yogurt, 3 egg yolks
Blend uniformly and warm to 95-100°F.+ Refrigerate between uses. Discard any unused milk replacer 24 hours after mixing.

Kitten Bottle Feeding and Stomach Capacity Chart

NOTE: NEVER FEED A COLD KITTEN! WARM THEM UP!

Estimate d Age (wks)	Typical Kitten Weight (grams)	Amount of Formula Per Day (ml)	Amount Per Feeding (ml)	Approx. No. of Feedings Per Day
<1	57	15	2	7
	85	23	3	7
	113	31	5	7
1 week	142	38	6	7
	170	45	7	7
	198	54	8	7
	227	61	9	7
2 weeks	255	69	10	7
	283	77	11	7
	312	84	12	6-7
3 weeks	340	92	14	6-7
	369	100	15	6
	397	107	16	5
	425	115	17	5
4 weeks	454	123	18	5
	482	130	19	4
	510	138	20	4

FIV AND FELV

These are the two diseases we test for. We sometimes refer to the test as a “combo test”. It works similar to a COVID test, placing a drop of blood in each well and adding a liquid.

We test kitties if they are sick, when they are spay/neutered, or just before adoption. The tests can be inaccurate in small kittens, so testing as late as possible is preferred. The primary reason we do test young is because it's required by our Petco Partnership. We do encourage adoptive parents to get their kitty retested at 1 year of age.

Note that we have had cats test positive for both diseases, but FIV is extremely rare. Of our 800+ cats tested as of this writing, we have only had a small handful of FeLV kitties, and only one positive for FIV.

To prevent confusion it's good to refer to FeLV as Feline Leukemia.

FIV stands for feline immunodeficiency virus, a viral infection that affects cats and weakens their immune systems. FIV is similar to HIV in humans, which causes AIDS, and there is no cure for it. However, with proper care, cats with FIV can live healthy lives.

Cats get feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV) primarily through deep bite wounds from an infected cat. The virus is present in an infected cat's saliva and must be passed through the skin of another cat.

FIV is most commonly passed between cats during mating, cat fights, or from a mother to her kittens. FIV is **not** spread through casual, non-aggressive contact, such as sharing water bowls or mutual grooming. Cats in households with

stable social structures where housemates do not fight are at little risk of acquiring FIV infections.

FIV is cat-specific and can't spread to other species, including humans. There is currently no cure for FIV and no vaccine to protect against it in the U.S.. However, healthy cats can take measures to protect themselves from infections, such as regular vaccinations, flea control, antiviral products, interferons, and immunosuppressive drugs.

Feline leukemia virus (FeLV) is a viral infection that affects a cat's immune system and bone marrow. It's one of the most common infectious diseases in cats, affecting 2–3% of cats in the United States and Canada. In cats that are ill or at high risk, infection rates can be as high as 30%.

FeLV can cause a variety of diseases, including: anemia, cancers, immune deficiency, and blood disorders.

Cats that test positive for FeLV tend to have shorter lifespans, but with proper care and management, many cats can live years in good health.

FeLV is primarily transmitted through saliva, and can be spread through mutual grooming, fighting, and rarely, sharing dishes. An infected mother cat can also spread FeLV to her kittens during birth or nursing. Kittens are more susceptible to FeLV infection than adult cats because of their immature immune systems.

FeLV is specific to cats and doesn't pose a risk to other species of animals or people. The virus can't survive for very long in the environment and is easily inactivated by common disinfectants.

MEDICATIONS

MEDICATION CHART

Medication	When to Use	Dosage	Notes/Storage Needs/ Expiration
Albon	For icky poo, possibly coccidia	.5ml/lb the first day, then .25ml/lb for 13 days after	
Azithromycin	Antibiotic. Use for upper respiratory infections when others have not worked.	Give .1ml per pound for 10 days. Can be extended in serious cases.	Add 5ml of water to pill and dissolve.
Bayril (enrofloxacin)	VERY powerful oral med to treat bacterial infections	.022ml/ pound for 5-10 days. Use for as little time as needed.	MUST be approved by our vet tech.
Ciprofloxacin Ophthalmic Solution	Eye drops used for bacterial infections	1-2 drops in affected eye every 2 hours while awake for 2 days, then every 4 hours while awake for next 5 days	

Clavamox	Treats skin infections, wounds, severe eye infections, abscesses, and urinary tract infections in cats.	.1ml per pound twice a day for 5-7 days or 48 hours after symptoms subside, no more than 30 days	Keep refrigerated. Unused can be frozen.
Doxycycline	Good general antibiotic, especially for upper respiratory infections	.1ml/lb daily for 10 days	
Famciclovir	Used to treat herpes virus or upper respiratory viral infection		
Gabapentin	Can be used to treat pain, seizures, or to calm before stressful trips	Very strong. Consult before using	
Metronidazole	Icky poo, possibility of coccidia. And also for Giardia or other spirochetes.	10mg/lb twice a day for 3-7 days. Dosage depends on medicine strength.	See mentor for dosage.
Mirataz	To encourage cats to eat, specifically in those with kidney disease	Gel placed on inner ear. Consult a foster mentor before using.	Wear gloves

Nitenpyram	Pill for flea treatment.	Can be given daily or every few days.	Same as Capstar
Ofloxacin	For severe URI/eye issues	One drop per eye 3x day for 10 days	
Panacur or other dewormer	Use on intake, then once every 2-3 weeks	.25ml/lb for 5 days	
PTOE Put This on Everything	Salve or gel for healing skin wounds, burns, etc.	Apply multiple times a day	All natural, safe to lick.
Praziquantel	For tapeworms	Can be given directly in the mouth or mixed into wet food. Under 4 lbs - 1/2 tablet 5-11 lbs - 1 tablet over 11 lbs 1-1/2 tablet	Good to give about a week before adoption
Toltrazuril	For diagnosed coccidia. Stronger than Albon but works faster.	Give .18ml/lb per day for 3 days. Repeat in 1 week.	Shake well!

Zyzal	Allergies	5ml (1/4 of a tablet)	
Nebulizer/ Albuteral	Allergies or URI. Helps open airways. A medicated version of a steamy shower.	1ml Alburteral to 10ml water in nebulizer	Put nebulizer in carrier and cover with a towel. Keep kitty in for 10 minutes.
RINGWORM			
1% Clotimazole Liquid solution or cream	Topical. For use on ringworm. Can be used in a pinch, but Miconazole is better (found in Monostat 7)	Apply directly on infected area 2-3 times a day.	The same ingredient can be found in jock itch cream and is safe for animals.
Nolvasan aka Chlorhexidine	Good general topical antiseptic. Can also be used to clean kennels or instruments. Can also be used in Ringworm as a topical or dip.	1 tablespoon to 1/2 gallon of water. No rinsing needed.	This can also be used as a preventative dip on new kitty intake.

Sulfur Lime Dip	For ringworm. Wear gloves and use throw away towels. It's stinky! Use 2x a week.	Dilute to 4 ounces of concentrate to 1 gallon of water. "Dip" animal in solution twice a week. Allow solution to dry, do not rub off.	The combination of Miconazole, Sulfur Lime Dip, and Itraconazole oral medication is the preferred treatment for Ringworm.
Miconazole	For ringworm. Found in Monostat 7 cream.	Topical 2-3 times a day on infected area.	
Itraconazole (Itrafungol)	Oral medication for ringworm	See dosage chart at end of list.	
Small Black Light Flashlight	Ringworm often glows apple green. This is a good way to initially diagnose SOME ringworm cases and check new intakes for ringworm. Ringworm glows about 50% of the time so always be on the lookout.		

GENERAL			
Nolvasan aka Chlorhexidine	See above under “Ringworm” Also a good general antiseptic and cleaner.		
Colloidal Silver Gel	General purpose topical first aid gel		
Lysine	Supplement, sometimes thought to help viral infections	Sprinkle on food	Mixed reviews from vets - some say “try it”, some say it does nothing
Terramycin Gel	Eye Ointment	2-3 times a day. Clean eyes with warm soft cloth then use gel, gently making sure it gets into the eye.	
Tresaderm	Used as a topical for ear or skin infections. Can be used for ear mites.	Keep refrigerated.	

Simethicone	For relief of gas.	20mg give 3ml every 8-12 hours	Found in many anti-gas otc meds, including Infant Mylicon drops which are easier to administer.
FLEAS			
Nitenpyram (Capstar)	Quick acting flea treatment	1 pill for any cat 2-25lbs	Begins working within 30 minutes. Nitenpyram kills existing fleas only so will need another dose and can safely be given every 24 hours
Revolution	See charts in this book for dosages per pound.		
Advantage II			
Frontline Plus			
OTHER HELPFUL ITEMS			
● Scale that measures in pounds, ounces, and grams * ● Vitamin A & D Diaper Rash Ointment ● Soft cotton pads ● Heating pad that doesn't kick off ● Bottles and nipples for bottle babies ● 1ml and 3ml syringes ● Unflavored Pediolite, KittenLyte, or Hydracare ● Churu or squeeze treats for hard to socialize kitties ● A wire kennel that can be used to isolate on intake or if kitty is sick ● Nutritional Paste - available on amazon for kitties that need more calories.			

- Baby wipes
- Health Records
- Flea Comb
- Pill Popper
- Milk Replacer
- Thermometer
- Pumpkin and/or yogurt and/or probiotics

INTRACONAZOLE ORAL MEDICATION FOR RINGWORM DOSAGE CHART

WEIGHT OF CAT	DOSAGE
.5 lb	0.1ml
1.0 lb	0.2ml
1.5 lb	0.35ml
2.0 lb	0.45ml
2.5 lb	.55ml
3.0 lb	.7ml
3.5 lb	.8ml
4.0 lb	.9ml
4.5 lb	1.0ml
5.0 lb	1.15ml
6.0 lb	1.35ml
7.0 lb	1.6ml
8.0 lb	1.8ml
9.0 lb	2.0ml
10.0 lb	2.25ml
11.0 lb	2.5ml
12.0 lb	2.7ml
13.0 lb	3.0ml