DON'T KIT-NAP ME!

Kittens have the best chance for survival if they stay with their mom. Removing them puts them at risk. Follow this flow chart to help you make the best decision for the kittens' care during COVID-19.

START

Are the kittens sick or hurt?

YES

First call the Humane Society of Delaware County (740) 369 7387. If HSDC is unavailable, call Central Ohio Veterinary Emergency Hospital (740) 481 2683. These two organizations will do everything they can for the kitten, but if sickness or injuries are severe, euthanasia may be the final option.

NO

Estimate the age of the kittens

0-2 WEEKS

Eyes still closed or just beginning to open

2-4 WEEKS

Eyes open and alert; starting to explore

4-6 WEEKS

Very mobile and talkative; starting to eat solid food

6-8 WEEKS

Very active and playful; around 1-2 lbs

8+ WEEKS

Very active and playful; weighs 2+ lbs

Is the mother cat caring for the kittens?

YES

Leave the kittens where they are. When they are 6-8 weeks old, follow the instructions to the right for their age. Contact **HDSC's TNR** program for FREE spay resources for the mother cat.

NO

Are you sure? Mom cats need to hunt and a nervous mom cat may not return if you are present. Make a ring of flour around the kittens and check back in 6 hours for mom's pawprints. Another tip is to see if the kittens are fat, clean, and quiet; that means they are being taken care of.

YES I'M SURE

If you cannot bottle feed them, post on your social media to see if someone else can. Call **HSDC** under 4 weeks; submit an intake request for over 4: bit.ly/strayintake

Are you willing to care for the kittens?

YES

You're truly a lifesaver! **HSDC can supply guidance on how to care for them.**

NO

Post on your social media to see if someone else can foster them. Submit an intake request: bit.ly/strayintake

TIPS

- Kittens need to be fed a formula made for cats. Never feed cow's milk to an orphaned kitten.
- Mom cats set up their kittens in safe places. Leave found kittens where they are unless they're in immediate danger.
- Kittens have a much higher survival rate if they stay with mom at least until weaned (~6 weeks old).

CONTACT US

(740) 369 7387
darlene.burks@hsdcohio.org