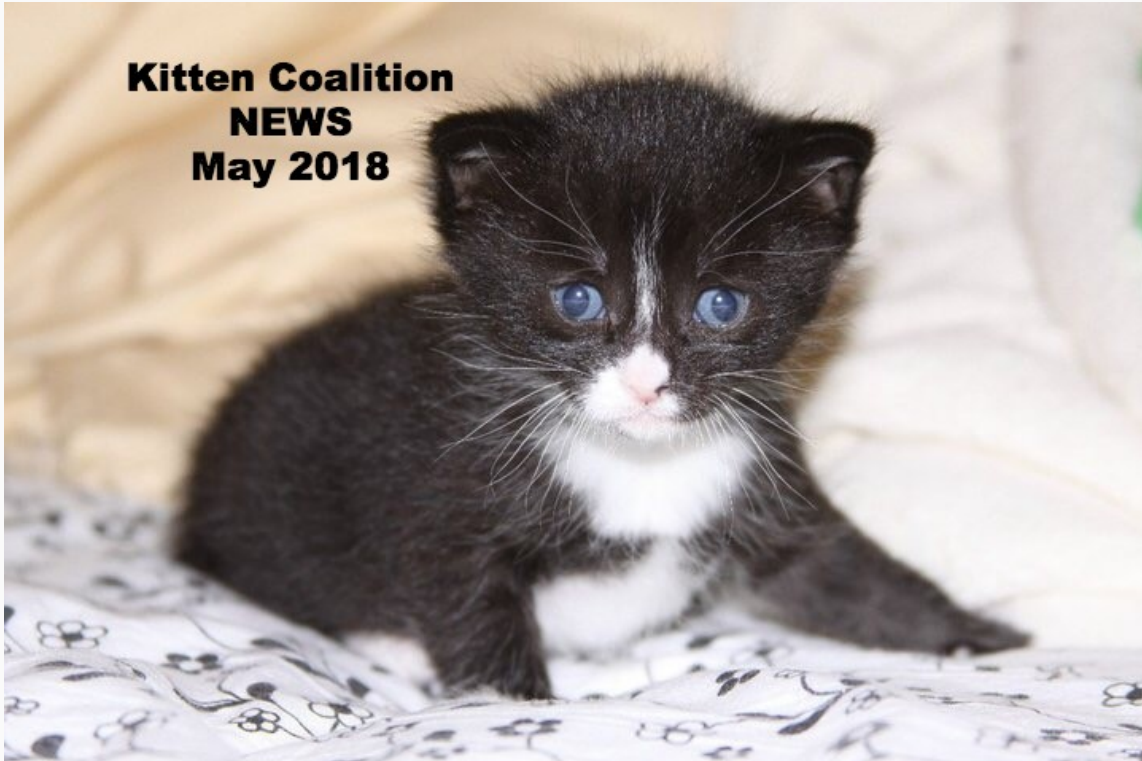




NATIONAL KITTEN COALITION

**Kitten Coalition
NEWS
May 2018**



Should We Start a Kitten Nursery?

As we race our way through “kitten season,” some of us may be wondering whether a kitten nursery would be right for their organization. We read nearly every week about a new nursery opening its doors, and it does seem like an amazing way to save more lives.

As many of you know, The National Kitten Coalition visited five state-of-the-art kitten nurseries located around the country that are reflective of a variety of unique local conditions. From in-depth interviews with each, coupled with our own knowledge of how best to care for at-risk kittens, we compiled and released a manual, [Launching and Operating a Successful Kitten Nursery](#). We thought it would be useful to review an abbreviated version of our four “big picture” recommendations to guide your thinking. For lots of detail, please download the full manual from our website - for free!

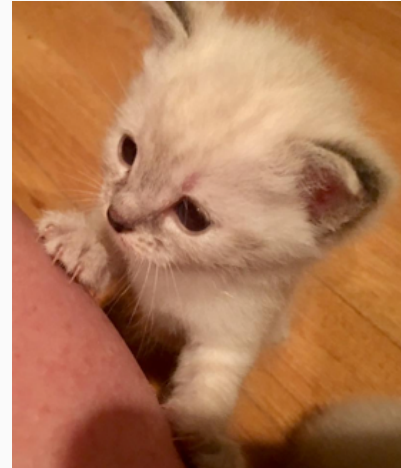
1. Do not start a nursery without a well-functioning kitten foster program in place – and, ideally, one with fosters who can care for unweaned kittens (“bottle babies”) and certain sick kittens. If at all possible, a nursery should be a brief (one to ten day) stopover for kittens headed to foster care, not a space for kittens to spend their entire developmental time in until they are ready to be spayed/neutered and put up for adoption. Keeping all kittens that come to the nursery *in* the nursery can quickly overrun most small facilities’ resources. So, a kitten foster program is an important and essential pre-condition for organizations that will be unable to afford caring for all kittens for an extended period of time (typically up to eight weeks of age).

2. Be flexible. Expect to change many of your approaches every year. Nurseries are fluid operations. You need to embrace what works and reject what does not. Reevaluate your procedures and policies at least once a year at the end of each kitten season, or even periodically throughout the year. More often than not, some things that worked one year may not work the next, and you need to be prepared to adjust your facility, staff,

protocols and budgets accordingly.

3. Set the nursery's capacity based on the number of fosters, volunteers and staff that you have available to care for kittens, not the size of your facility. Then, appoint a "gatekeeper" who can manage kitten intake numbers and is able to say "no more" even though she/he knows it means the turned-away kittens could die. It is easy to get overwhelmed by taking in too many kittens, which could lead to disease outbreaks that could threaten the lives of many kittens in the nursery. Everyone needs to know capacity limits and the chain of command so that no one picks up kittens before knowing whether there is space for them in the nursery or in foster care.

4. Identify your "village." You will succeed only if you partner with a range of organizations and individuals who are also intent on saving kitten lives. No one organization will have sufficient staff or money to do it all themselves. You will need to partner with animal control, volunteers, fosters, donors, grant-giving organizations, local veterinary practices, community groups – and likely many more.



Kitten nurseries are, in fact, lifesavers, and the kittens in your community could benefit from such a place, but only if you have adequate resources, established protocols and enough staff and volunteers available, ready and willing to jump in. Visit our website to [download](#) our 100+ page "how to" kitten nursery manual for free, and thanks for saving kittens' lives!

Top 10 Questions: #4. What Should I Do When I Find a Neonate Kitten in the Field?

For our 10-year anniversary, each month we're answering one of the 10 most common questions that we get. This month we'd like to respond to the question: When out in the field trapping (for TNR), what should I do when I come across neonatal kittens?

This question is an important one, and the answer is really too big to fit into this response, but here are a few key points:

- Prepare ahead of time for the possibility of finding kittens in the field - or recently delivered in the trap with momma. This includes having staff and volunteers properly trained on kitten care and equipped with necessary supplies such as a basic "kitten care kit". One of the greatest immediate needs is often for warmth and safety, so a carrier or other container with bedding and a pre-heated SnuggleSafe or other device for warmth is essential. Remember, kittens cannot regulate their own body temperature until about 4 weeks of age.
- If kittens have been without food for several hours, they will need to have a source of energy provided to them. Although you should never feed a kitten that is unstable (too hot or cold, unresponsive, etc.), you can put some Karo Syrup on its gums to provide some immediate calories and glucose.
- Then, always be sure to have the kitten examined and provided with appropriate medical and foster care.
- If the kittens' momma has been trapped, they can be reunited if safe handling and appropriate housing and care protocols are in place for her as well. Otherwise, the kittens can be hand-raised by a trained bottle-baby foster parent.

Information about "[kitten care kits](#)" that can benefit feral and foster kittens is available on our website, and check out our [Programs](#) page to learn more about bringing a training workshop to your location. Thanks for all

you do to save kittens!

Your Support Helps Save Lives! Thank you!

How You Can Help: Support NKC During 'Do More 24'

Coming up fast – Thursday, May 17-18! -- is "Do More 24," a fundraising drive organized by the United Way. The National Kitten Coalition will be joining with the United Way to raise \$7,500 during this 24 hour drive for NKC's educational programs. The festivities begin at noon on May 17 and run to noon on May 18.

As you know, The National Kitten Coalition offers workshops, webinars and other teaching events and materials to help shelter and rescue staff and kitten fosters care for at-risk kittens. We charge a nominal fee for our workshops, but not nearly enough to cover all of their cost; our webinars are free. So we need to [raise money](#) to keep these programs going.

And it matters: last year, we taught over 1,000 students around the country. They estimated for us that they would, on average, care for about 10 kittens each in a typical year. That works out to over 10,000 kittens! Picture it, that's a lot of lives saved!



Power your community.

05.17.2018

domore24.org

Therefore, we hope you will join with our other awesome supporters during Do More 24 to help us meet our goal. Thank you for your generosity that saves kittens' lives!

[Donate Now](#)

Upcoming Events

Where will the National Kitten Coalition be next? We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events! Now scheduling for late summer and fall. Please [contact us](#) to host an event in your town!

May 24, 2018. [Minnesota Animal Welfare Conference](#). St. Cloud, MN. Speaking and exhibiting. [Registration](#) open!

September 27-30, 2019. [American Association of Feline Practitioners Conference](#). Charlotte, NC. Exhibiting. Registration coming soon!

October 3-7, 2018. [Wild West Veterinary Conference](#). Reno, NV. Speaking and exhibiting. [Presenting a full](#)

CE track of sessions for veterinary technicians! [Registration](#) is open!

October 21-23, 2018. [Michigan Humane Society's](#) Great Lakes Animal Welfare Conference. Battle Creek, MI. Presenting two sessions. [Registration](#) is open!

Thank you to our recent workshop and conference hosts who held events within the last month:

[Wichita Animal Action League](#)

[Williamson County Regional Animal Shelter](#)

[Texas Unites for Animals Conference](#)

#ThanksToMaddie - Thank you [Maddie's Fund](#) for your continued support of our NKC programs!

Pass It On & Share the Kitten Love

Don't forget to follow and share The National Kitten Coalition [Facebook](#) page with family, friends and colleagues. We post lots of great kitten-care tips, fun stuff and information on upcoming events. We know that sharing information is a powerful tool for change and connects people. We invite you to join the conversation!

And, we encourage you to forward this newsletter to anyone you think may be interested in learning more about kitten care and The National Kitten Coalition. Thank you!



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About The National Kitten Coalition

Our team has decades of hands-on experience as shelter employees, rescue volunteers, kitten foster parents and veterinary professionals, and we bring this expertise with us when we educate and train others on up-to-

date, proven information on how to save kitten lives – a labor of love we have committed to for more than 10 years.

We believe:

- Neonatal, sick and other at-risk kittens should be given a chance to grow and thrive.
- Our strong and well-researched educational programs save kitten lives and reduce euthanasia.
- Those on the front lines at animal shelters, rescues organizations and in the veterinary community work tirelessly to save lives, and we stand with them in their efforts.
- Together, we can save more lives!



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You are receiving this email because you have supported us in the past; attended or participated in an educational program; expressed interest in participating in an educational program; are an animal-welfare organization or have opted in at our website.

Thank you for the work you do to save animals – especially kittens!

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