



Fast Facts

Top Bottle Feeding Hints

1. Formula should be fresh: less than 24 hours old, preferably less than 12 hours old.
2. Formula should be the correct temperature (warm) – bottle nipple also.
3. Nipple opening should be large enough (use scissors) and appropriately sized for kitten's age (formula should drip out slowly when held upside down).
4. Loosen bottle cap slightly.
5. Place fingers lightly on cheeks and chin.
6. Feed in prone position, and do not force the formula into the kitten's mouth.
7. Assure that kittens are alert. Very small kittens are more likely to nurse when 'asleep,' but kittens older than 2 weeks need to be fully awake.
8. Burp kittens after feeding.
9. If medicating, give after feeding unless otherwise indicated (easier on the kitten's stomach).
10. Use toilet paper for stimulation.
11. Use a warm, damp washcloth to simulate mother's licking to clean several times a day, especially around the mouth and anal areas.
12. Keep accurate records – particularly of the kitten's weight, food intake and elimination habits.
13. Keep **ALL** supplies and the environment meticulously clean.
14. Formula can be used as a vehicle for supplements, (i.e. Nutri-Cal, L-lysine, BeneBac, FortiFlora, etc.), but NOT medications.
15. Patience, observation and determination are key.



Why Won't My Kitten Nurse?

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| 1. Cold or dehydrated (Do not feed until stable – warm and hydrated!) | 6. Not fully awake |
| 2. Not hungry, especially with new intakes of healthy kittens older than 2 weeks | 7. Nipple opening too small |
| 3. Formula/bottle/nipple too cold or hot | 8. Physical deformity (i.e. cleft palate, etc.) – should be seen during intake exam |
| 4. Formula bad (taste) | 9. Illness (i.e. URI, panleukopenia, etc.) – RED FLAG! |
| 5. Need to urinate/defecate | 10. Old enough to eat solid food |