

# I FOUND KITTENS!

Everyone loves kittens! Therefore, it's safe to say you would help any kittens you found in the neighborhood. However, we need your help before you begin taking action. Please consider the following: All kittens have mothers and their mothers are their best caregivers. She provides lifesaving milk, fends off predators, and keeps her little ones warm. Kittens should only be removed if it is warranted. So, when is it appropriate to move or remove kittens? Please use this helpful guide to determine your course of action. If you are unable to provide care for kittens you find, don't worry, we are here to help! You may bring them to the Ventura County Animal Services for care.

## DO THE KITTENS APPEAR SICK OR INJURED?

**YES:** Bring them to a veterinary clinic or VCAS for immediate help.

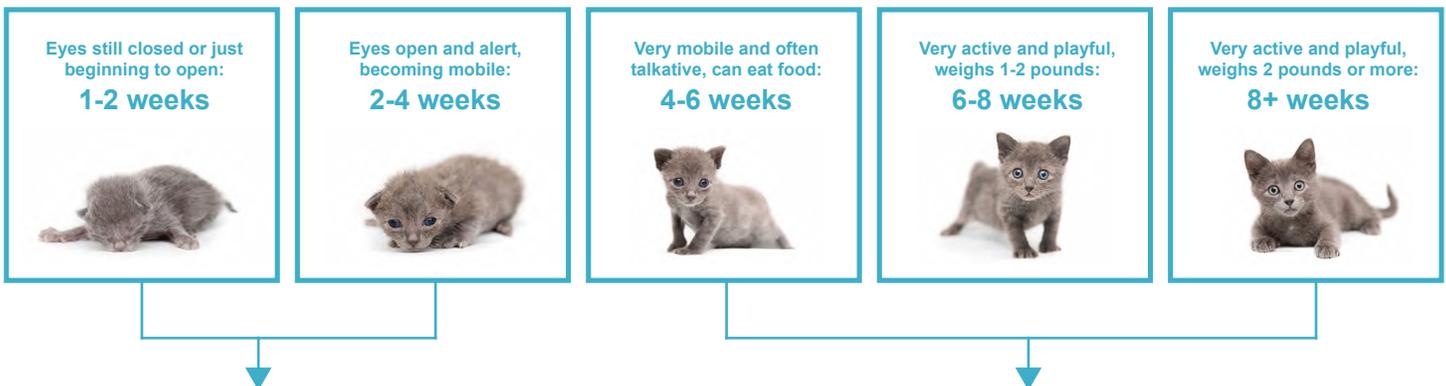
**NO:** Estimate the kittens' age by what they look like and continue below.



### EXAMPLE OF ILLNESS IN KITTENS

Dirty, crusty eyes, underweight, etc.

Visit [kittenlady.org/casa](http://kittenlady.org/casa) for additional information.



## DO YOU SEE A HIDING OR NESTING AREA?

**YES:** Leave the kittens where they are. Avoid handling them and watch them from a distance to ensure mama cat returns after **6-8 hours**. Leaving them with her greatly increases their chances of survival.

**NO:** If you don't see a nesting area or if the kittens are close to a street, gently move them to a safe place and observe them for **6-8 hours** to ensure mom has returned.

## IF MAMA CAT HAS NOT RETURNED.

Choose **OPTION A** or **OPTION B**.

### OPTION A: Care for the kittens as a Good Samaritan.\*

- GATHER SUPPLIES.** Bottles, nipples, formula, heating pads, etc. VCAS offers *free* KITTEN STARTER KITS for those in need. They are available at VCAS.
- HEALTH.** Take the kittens to a veterinarian for a check-up and vaccinations.
- EDUCATION.** Learn how to bottle feed, how to handle bathroom business, and all other aspects of essential kitten care, at [kittenlady.org/kitten-care](http://kittenlady.org/kitten-care).
- SPAY/NEUTER.** Kittens who are 8 weeks or older should be spayed/neutered before being adopted out. If you need no-cost or low-cost spay or neuter options, please visit [vcas.us/communitycats](http://vcas.us/communitycats) for a list of local organizations.
- FRIENDLY?** Visit [kittenlady.org/orphaned-1](http://kittenlady.org/orphaned-1) to learn how to socialize your kittens if needed. Some kittens over 8 weeks of age may remain feral. But don't worry, these cats will always have a place in our community! Visit [vcas.us/communitycats](http://vcas.us/communitycats) to learn about the TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program and our VCAS Working Whiskers program.
- ADOPTION.** You may bring the kittens to VCAS to be adopted or you may find them loving homes on your own. Visit [kittenlady.org/pickingadopters](http://kittenlady.org/pickingadopters) for helpful tips on finding loving homes for your kittens.

**\*Financial Responsibility** – If you choose to be the Good Samaritan, please be aware that you will be financially responsible for any costs associated with the care of the kittens.

### OPTION B: If you are unable to care for the kittens.

If you are unable to care for kittens, don't worry, it's a big responsibility and we are [here to help!](#) You may bring the kittens to the shelter and we will care for them.

Thank you so much for caring about cats and kittens in need! If you have questions or need assistance in any way, please call us at (805) 388-4341. Experienced staff members are standing by! **Ventura County Animal Services**

