



BANGALORE
CAT SQUAD

A Guide to Fostering Kittens

***For weaned kittens or kittens
above 4 weeks of age***



Published: July 2021

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Disclaimer: This guide can be downloaded and used freely. However, the medicines mentioned in this guide are only indicative. Information on emergencies is based on the experience of members of the Bangalore Cat Squad. Before administering medication we request you to validate with a veterinary doctor.



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About the Bangalore Cat Squad

The Bangalore Cat Squad (BCS) is India's first and only cloud shelter that rescues, rehomes and rehabilitates injured or sick, and orphaned or abandoned cats and kittens across Bengaluru city, Karnataka.

The network consists of a growing group of animal welfare volunteers spread across Bengaluru. BCS exists to help the most unfortunate and unwanted cats and kittens in our community. We take in stray, injured, orphaned kittens and cats in need and care for them via our self-funded volunteer network. We also ensure that they find a loving home. BCS works with several animal shelters, vets and pet clinics across the city.

As a volunteer network we are able to provide intensive, personalised care to each animal in distress. We have zero overheads (no shelter infrastructure, no staff costs etc.). Each animal gets the specific attention they need, which also ensures that mortality and infection rates are very low. Finally, in a safe home foster environment, kittens and cats flourish, are socialised and this helps us find the perfect home for them based on their individual personality. BCS has made it possible to re-home hundreds of cats and kittens annually and offer the best care, support and follow up for each rescue. Over the 7 years of our existence, BCS has rehomed more than 2000 cats and kittens across Bengaluru city.

We are also committed to tackling the challenge of feral cat overpopulation through spaying/neutering camps, awareness programmes and policy change (where possible). We strongly believe that citizen involvement is the only sustainable way of creating a lasting impact in the animal welfare ecosystem in India and the world.

If you are interested, and have the commitment to fostering, we invite you to join our network. Get in touch by writing to us at bangalorecatsquad@gmail.com.

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About this Guide

Dear Foster Family,

You are about to embark on a memorable life-saving adventure! Thank you for opening your home and heart to orphaned kittens. Kittens younger than eight weeks old are very vulnerable and the most at-risk population in shelters. Orphaned kittens also usually require consistent love and attention that is difficult to provide in a shelter environment. Thus fostering provides the best chance for kittens to survive and get a healthy start in life.

Fostering kittens is a rewarding process, and we could not do it without you!

In this manual, you will find helpful tips. We encourage fosters to take more than one kitten at a time to help promote socialisation and normal behavioural growth. When kittens are unable to have appropriate social interaction with other kittens it can stunt proper socialisation and lead to behavioural problems. Multiple kittens are not only fun, they can also entertain themselves!

This guide has been put together based on the experience of members of the Bangalore Cat Squad (BCS) in fostering kittens over many years. It is for fosters taking care of kittens that are weaned—approximately 4 weeks and above. It begins with information on what you will need to start fostering and how to prepare your house. The main focus of the manual is on the first few days when the kitten arrives under your care, often dirty, or ill, with worms and covered in fleas. The manual includes how to treat such kittens at home with medication. We have included details of the kind of medication, where these medicines can be sourced, dosage and how to administer. **A word of caution: while this guide can be used for kittens that come under your care with minor injuries or ailments, for serious cases please consult a vet.**

We hope this guide will be useful in your fostering journey, and in caring for furry felines in need of our help!

Sincerely,
Bangalore Cat Squad

Getting Your Home Ready

Creating a safe space for the kitten in your house is one of the first things to do—even before the kitten arrives.

Creating a cosy nook for the new foster

- You will want to prepare a quiet and isolated area for your kitten. This could be a separate room, bathroom or a small area in a larger room. In order to allow the kitten to relax and settle in, the room should be a quiet place, away from noise and people.
- It is important that this room/area is quarantined from other pets you may have in the house—both for the safety of the kitten and the health of the resident pets—as rescued kittens may carry infections.
- Create a cosy nook that the kitten can safely retreat to when feeling scared, in the room, bathroom or area in a room.
- This cosy nook could be made out of cardboard, spare boxes, shawls, clean rags, etc. The aim is to create a cave-like atmosphere for the kitten.
- This area should be warm (not too warm). For young kittens and if the weather is cold, a heating pad could be set on low, with a soft blanket covering it completely. A soft blanket, shawl or soft toy can be placed for the kitten to lay on so that the kitten is not directly lying on the heating pad and has the option of moving away from the heat source.
- A ticking clock also helps comfort the kitten. The ticking mimics the moms heartbeat and calms them down when placed in their bed.
- Kittens may come with stomach issues, and hence, may poop where they are sleeping. Old newspaper or washable/disposable rags can be used in this cosy nook in the early days to avoid endless washing and cleaning.
- Leave a shallow dish with water near the cosy nook created for the kitten.
- Leave a litter tray close to the cosy nook in the room, bathroom or area. As the kitten gets comfortable this can be moved away, but in the beginning it is good to keep this close so that the kitten can access it, and yet feel

safe. The tray should be such that it is easy for the kitten to get in and out. If the kitten on arrival is not hissing or too stressed, show the litter tray, by placing the kitten in the tray.

- Kitten proofing is very critical. Keep your windows meshed and balconies netted. Take care of the corners of these netting and make sure there are no gaps. Keep all doors closed. Secure all the exit points like small gaps in the exhaust or grill—remember kittens can squeeze through the tiniest of gaps!
- Make sure there is no trash can or toilet they can fall into, a curtain they can climb, a toxic plant they can eat, or a small space they can hide or get stuck in.

Some additional tips:

- For a regular foster a large dog crate would be a good investment or DIY cages that are available online. These cages can be easily assembled and dismantled to create a safe space.
- While the space created needs to make the kitten feel safe, it should also be such that the kitten can observe you and also allows you to pick up the kitten easily without grabbing or pulling in case you want to handle the kitten.
- Watch this video for a more in-depth understanding on how to create a safe space: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AUFsGUtTVTc>

Things you will need to get started with fostering

- Cardboard boxes, or a small cage
- Newspaper, disposable or washable rags
- Stuffed toy
- Ticking clock
- Water and food bowls
- Litter tray and litter
- Hot water bag or electric heating pad
- Microfibre blanket
- Baking scale for weighing
- Clorox or bleaching powder for cleaning
- Kitten carrier (top opening)

On the Kitten's Arrival at the Foster Home

Assessing the kitten's health is an important step. When the kitten arrives it may be very stressed, and hissing. Allow the kitten about 20 minutes to destress by leaving it alone in the cosy nook prepared in a room for it. Once the kitten has settled some basic cleaning and checking of health may need to be done. This can be followed with the first meal.

Cleaning a dirty kitten

It is not recommended to bathe kittens with water, as they find baths unpleasant and a bath may also cause the kitten to fall sick.

But a dirty kitten on arrival may need some cleaning. You can use **Himalaya Fresh Coat** for pets to keep the fur clean. This is available online or in pet shops/clinics. Spray the entire body of the kitten, avoiding the eyes and leave it for 5 minutes. Towel dry and brush the coat gently in the direction of hair strands.



You can also wipe the very dirty parts with a towel or sponge dipped in warm water. But make sure to wipe the kitten completely dry.

Checking the eyes

If there is any gunk or discharge near the eyes, use a damp tissue or wet cotton ball and gently clean it. Always start at the corner of the eye and clean in the outward direction. Cleaning the eyes with saline solution available over the counter in pharmacies is also good.

Moxifloxacin eye drops, purchased over the counter in a regular pharmacy, can be used to treat bacterial conjunctivitis (pink eye). Use only one drop, 2-3 times a day. Consult with the vet if required.

Checking for any wounds

Consult with a vet is recommended for very large and deep wounds.

For smaller wounds and cuts, clean the wound two to three times daily using cotton with a mild antiseptic solution like **Betadine**, available over the counter from a regular pharmacy. You can also use warm water to remove any crusted discharge. Be sure to keep wound edges clean always.



Himalaya Scavon ointment/spray for pets is non-toxic, can be applied topically, and helpful to quickly heal open wounds and prevent secondary infections. Clean the wound and apply twice a day till the wound is healed. This is available online or can be purchased from a pet store/clinic.

DO NOT clean the wound with hydrogen peroxide, witch hazel, or alcohol.

Does the kitten have a fever?

Hold the kitten and check it's temperature by inserting a thermometer into its rectum. It may not be easy to do this ! Alternatively, check the ears of the kitten. If they seem very warm, the kitten could be running a temperature. In case the temperature is high, that is above 102.5 degrees F the kitten is running a fever. Give your kitten **Himalaya Himpyrin**, which is an analgesic and anti-inflammatory tonic for pets. Himpyrin is administered via a dropper, and for kittens the dose is 0.1 ml to be given for 2 to 3 days till the inflammation or fever reduces. This can be purchased online or from a pet store/clinic.



Caution: Keep a close eye and consult with the vet immediately if you think the kitten's condition is deteriorating.

Is the kitten dehydrated?

Gently pinch the skin to check hydration levels. If the skin stays together and does not return to its normal state quickly it is indicative that the kitten is dehydrated. It is important to immediately administer fluids to the kitten. **Ordelyte**, an oral rehydration solution (ORS) for pets, is ideal to keep on hand. Add one sachet in 500 ml of water.



For severe dehydration give this 3 times a day, with the dose for the day not exceeding 100 ml. This will have to be administered using a syringe. This is available sometimes online, but mostly in pet stores/clinics. Alternatively, home made ORS, made of sugar, salt and water, also works.

The first meal

Kittens may not eat much during the first 24 to 48 hours and may experience temporary diarrhoea from stress.

- Start by giving some wet food either packaged, boiled fish or some boiled chicken in stock.
- Talk to the kitten in a soft voice but if it seems too stressed then leave the kitten alone to eat its first meal feeling safe.
- If the kitten is not biting or hissing, touch the food to the mouth of the kitten using your fingers to encourage it to eat.
- **Do not give milk or dairy products.** Most cats are lactose intolerant. They may like the taste and drink it, but it is not healthy for them.

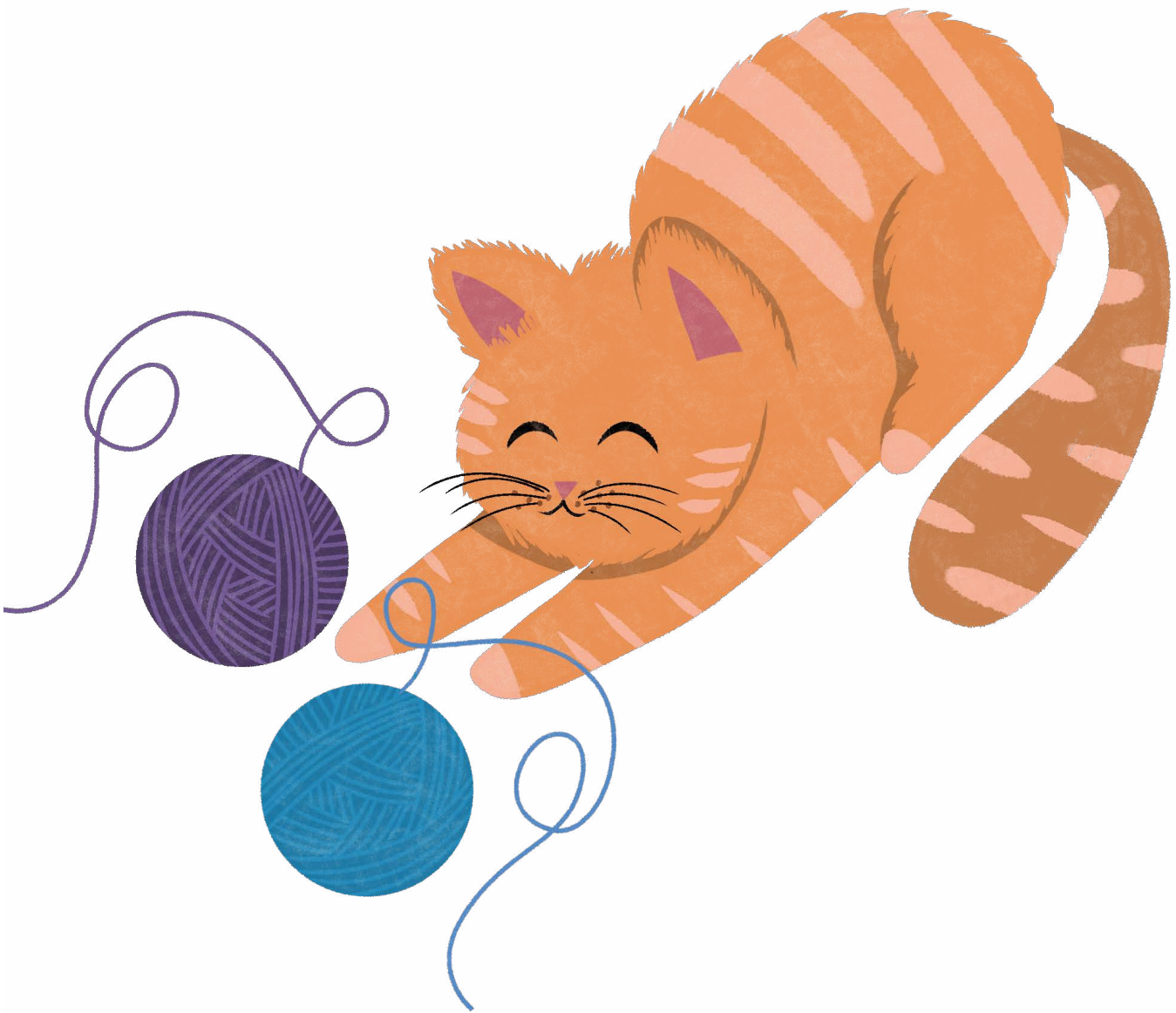
Some tips:

- Pressure cook chicken with bone very well. You can make a batch and store it in the fridge, keeping the pieces and the stock separate. Before feeding, remove the bones, warm the chicken with a bit of the stock. Warming the chicken releases the smell, and may induce the kitten to taste the food. But ensure that the chicken is only very slightly warm to your touch—too hot and it will burn the kittens tongue. Boiled fish can be given too. No need to pressure cook the fish though, just boil over the stove till the colour changes. Ensure that there are no bones before feeding.
- Mash the fish/chicken or shred it to a size that is comfortable for the kitten to eat,

so that the kitten does not get tired eating the same.

- In the case of packaged foods, the kitten food may be in pieces not easy for the kitten to eat. Either mash or break them into smaller pieces. Kittens may also be reluctant to eat food left out for a long time.

Note: Do not give treats to kittens that are less than 3 months old. Also there should be no sudden changes to food as it can cause stomach upsets. Stick to one kind of food, and introduce new food very gradually by giving a little bit at a time. Do not give a variety of food to kittens.



Over the Next Couple of Days

Settling the kitten into a routine over the next few days after arrival in the foster home is important.

Every few hours, you should be stimulating the kittens, feeding them, and showing them their comfy spot so they can safely sleep. As they get older, you can factor in some play time.

Socialising

- Spend time with your new kitten
- In the beginning, visit frequently for short periods of time. Visiting can mean interacting directly with the new kitten in the form of play or petting, or quietly reading a book or chatting on the telephone in the same space as your new companion.
- Keep in mind that a nervous kitten may growl, hiss, twitch its tails or pull its ears back. The best response is to speak softly followed by giving the kitten some time alone.
- Brushing the kitten is also a great way of socialising.
 - Hold your kitten on your lap and allow the kitten to sniff the brush or comb you intend to use to groom.
 - Starting with the back, brush gently, moving to the sides of the kitten's body.
 - As you brush, praise the kitten in a soft voice.
 - Alternate brushing with stroking.
 - When the kitten is comfortable with the sensation of being brushed, you can begin to include their ears, tail and stomach.
 - If you notice the kitten showing any signs of agitation or distress, stop grooming. Make sure you keep grooming sessions short.

- You can buy a brush, or alternately even use a toothbrush.

Litter training, and all things related to kitten poop

Helping the kitten get used to the litter tray and litter sand, might take a couple of days. There are bound to be "accidents" so be patient, and be prepared with mop and cleaning liquid!

- The litter tray should always be within the kitten's vision for the first few days. It should be kept close to their cosy corner initially, till they get used to it. Kittens may be scared to go too far to use the tray, leading to accidents.



- The tray should be of a size easy for the kitten to access and climb into. For very small kittens you can use a plastic tray about 2 inches in depth. Once the kitten is comfortable with this tray, and is able to jump, move to litter trays designed specifically for kittens.
- If there are two kittens it is better to have two trays.
- Fill the tray with litter about 2-inch depth, enough for them to dig.
- Kittens will not use a dirty litter box. Scoop out the clumps every day. In the beginning, you may have to scoop out 2-3 times a day.
- Ensure that the food and water bowls are not too close to the litter tray.
- Set your kitten in one of the litter trays immediately following meals and or on waking up from naps. If you notice behaviour like sniffing or scratching the ground in a particular area, pick up the kitten and put it in the litter box.
- Hold the kitten's front paws and gently scratch the litter, or use your

hands and scratch at the litter to mimic digging.

- If the kitten pees outside the box, pick up some paper towels, soak the pee, and place the wet paper towel in the litter tray. If the kitten poops outside the tray, pick up the mess and place it in the litter tray. Thoroughly clean the area with water and vinegar to remove any odour. Cats associate their litter habits with the smell, and are more likely to go in the same place again and again as long as they can smell the odour.

The poop can tell you much!

Check the kitten's poop consistency—it is normal for kittens to have softer poop. There may be a little blood in the poop, this is because of the sudden change in the diet. DO NOT BE ALARMED.

Diarrhea in kittens

If your kitten's poop is consistently shapeless and mushy or is liquidy, then it's diarrhea. Kittens with diarrhea may have accidents outside the litterbox. You may also notice diarrhea on their paws or around their tail (please clean up using moistened tissue or cotton).

Add probiotics to their diet—a pinch of **Gutwell**, a probiotic for pets available online or in pet stores/clinics, will help. The Gutwell powder can be added to their wet food. In the initial days add a pinch of Gutwell to the wet food twice a day, for two or three days. If the kitten has a more severe case, mix Gutwell in boiled and cooled water, and syringe feed this to the kitten (how to syringe feed is given in the section on deworming below).



Other probiotics are **One BC** and **Enterogermina**.

Both are available over the counter and need to be administered via a dropper or poured into food/water.

Ideally it should be washed down and hence given just before a meal. For kittens the dosage is 0.3 ml given once a day till the stool stabilises.



Canigest can be given once a day for 5 days to stabilise stool for kittens. One pinch of the paste needs to be given directly to the kitten. You can do this by holding the kitten gently but firmly by the scruff of the neck, taking the paste in your

hand or a spoon, and rubbing it on the mouth. The kitten's first instinct is to lick and so will end up licking the paste even from the spoon or hand held near the mouth. This is available online or in pet stores/clinics.

Himalaya Digyton, a digestive stimulant for pets in the form of drops can be added to the food or given to the kitten directly using a dropper. The dosage is two to three drops twice a day. This is available online or in pet stores/clinics.



A constipated kitten

If your kitten is litter trained, you may not even notice that it is constipated until you realise you have not seen any feces for a few days. Kittens who cannot defecate are not only uncomfortable, but are also at risk if left untreated. Aside from the lack of stool in the litter box, a constipated kitten may show the following signs: loss of appetite, vomiting and lethargy.

Increase the fluids your kitten is taking by adding water to food. Next, massage the belly and encourage the kitten to play or run around to stimulate normal intestinal peristalsis. Finally, add in a teaspoon of very well boiled pumpkin to increase the amount of fiber in the kitten's diet.

You can also add a few drops of coconut oil to the food. Warm coconut oil slightly, dip cotton in the oil, and rub it on the kittens anus. This will also help.

Giving **Himalaya Digyton** too can help. Give 5 drops every 8 hours till the kitten is no longer constipated.

The triangle method is one way of treating kittens with constipation.

Watch this video for an in-depth explanation on how to treat the kitten at home: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lqd_cZTM9pl&t=2s

Deworming

Once the kitten is comfortable with the food and poop is stable, you need to deworm the kitten.

- Deworming can be done using **Nemocid** syrup, available over the counter from a regular pharmacy. The dosage is 0.1 ml (not 1 ml) given using a syringe.
- Do the deworming maybe on the second or third day after the kitten arrives.
- Kittens need initial deworming at 3 weeks of age, and every month for the first 6 months. Older kittens and cats can be dewormed as needed.

How to give oral medication:

- Wrap the kitten in a towel (watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jacwed29t0). This is never as easy as it looks, and may not even be possible. In which case the best option is to hold the kitten by the scruff of the neck.
- Use a 2 ml syringe as it will be small enough to insert into the kitten's mouth and it will have a clear marking of 0.1 ml (watch: www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VMHjwa7TBE)
- Keep another syringe with honey mixed in water ready as well.
- A good time to do deworming is when the kitten is sleeping when you can catch them unawares. Get the syringes with the medicine ready, hold the kitten still half asleep by the scruff of the neck, pull the head slightly backwards firmly but gently to tilt the head upwards, and push the medicine using the syringe from the side of the mouth into the throat.
- Do not let go of the kitten. Nemocid is extremely bitter, so in order to neutralise the taste, squirt the honey with water also down the throat immediately after giving the medicine.
- The deworming needs to be done after a meal.

Some of the most common symptoms of worms in kittens are:

- Weight loss accompanied by a marked increase or decrease in appetite

- Distended abdomen, or ‘pot-bellied’ appearance
- Lethargy
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea/chronic soft stools

Defleaing a kitten

Kittens may be covered in fleas when they arrive. Defleaing is usually done using spot-on medications available online or in pet stores/clinics. But spot-on treatment is not recommended for kittens younger than 8 weeks old.

For really underweight kittens, if they are 6 weeks or so the only option may be a flea comb. Brush the kitten in the early days as many times as possible. The fleas will get stuck in the flea comb and we need to extricate them from the comb, and crush them on a paper towel.

Note: Fleas are VERY VERY quick so this needs to be done quickly, else the fleas will find their way back onto the kitten. One tip is to have the paper towel slightly wet so that the flea is not able to leap when placed on the paper.

The other options available for kittens less than 8 weeks are:

Clean the kitten using **Himalaya Fresh Coat** spray (described earlier in this guide) apply **Himalaya Erina-EP powder**—both can be bought online or will be available in pet stores. After applying the powder, you can also comb the kitten using a flea comb.



Fipronil spray, available in different brands that can be purchased online or from a pet store/clinic, can be used in case there are a very large number of fleas. But especially in young kittens this needs to be used with care. Ensure that the kitten is in a well ventilated space. Spray lightly (only a couple of sprays should be enough) on the body and rub it into the skin—avoiding the eyes. Let it dry. Do not bathe the kitten.

Treating cold and congestion

When kittens suffer from a cold, symptoms include sneezing and a change in their voice. It becomes lower and raspy. They may also cough and sometimes purring also induces cough. A first sign of an otherwise healthy kitten coming down with a cold could be a disinterest in food. One of the reasons is loss of appetite, but also they are unable to smell the food. It is therefore necessary to get rid of any congestion.

While starting treatment at home a close eye should be kept to ensure that the condition is not deteriorating indicating a severe respiratory infection that may need a vet consultation.

Ways to combat cold in kittens are as follows:

- To avoid sneezes, keep kittens away from all dusty places and any kind of fragrances like room fresheners, disinfectant sprays or body sprays.
- Give steam inhalation at least 4 times a day. Duration needs to be less than 5 min. There are three ways to do steam inhalation:
 - 1) Put the kitten inside the cat carrier, keep the steamer just outside the carrier door and cover both steamer and carrier with a large towel. Let the kitten be there for 3-4 minutes—the kitten will complain throughout, but it's okay. This will help with the nasal congestion.
 - 2) Another way is to wrap the kitten in a thick towel and hold the kitten's face at a distance from the steaming device or bowl. But be VERY careful that the steam does not scald the kitten or is making it uncomfortable.
 - 3) Humidity helps, so leave the kitten in the bathroom just after you have taken a hot shower for steam effect for 3-4 mins.
- Give fresh warm water to drink regularly. You may need to syringe feed this (check the temperature of water before feeding water).
- Keep a hot water bottle or heating pad while the kitten sleeps.
- You can also put the kitten in a cage and out in the sun for a few minutes. But ensure that this is for a short time, is not making the kitten uncomfortable, and no direct sunlight falls into their eyes.

Midweek Health Check: A Full Body Scan!

- Gently examine their paws, claws and toes to see if there are any cuts, wounds or infections missed.
- If they are happy and showing no signs of agitation or distress, gently open their mouth and examine their teeth and gums.
- Check inside their ears to ensure there is no matted fur or for red, itchy patches, as this



could signify they have ear mites. Clean ears manually with pet wipes and ear cleaning solution—**Virbac Epiotic Ear Cleanser** for Dogs and Cats that is available online or in pet stores/clinics.



- Also check the ears for dirt clumped and clean gently using cotton.
- Feel for any lumps, bumps or tender areas on their body.
- Check their bottom for inflammation or redness. Applying coconut oil using cotton can help reduce soreness and redness.
- In order to build their immunity, give them **Viusid** or **Himalaya Immunol**, both for pets, available online or in pet stores/clinics. The dose for Viusid is 0.1 ml or 3-4 drops and can be given using a dropper or a syringe directly into the kitten's mouth. Continue this for 5 days. Himalaya Immunol needs to be administered using a dropper or syringe as well. The dosage



is 0.2 to 0.3 ml directly into the kitten's mouth. This should be given for 5 to 7 days.

- Check the skin of the kittens for bacterial and fungal infections. Both bacterial and fungal skin infections will manifest as hair loss, rashes or soreness, itchiness, foul odour, crustiness and scaling, and in severe cases as painful lesions. **T Bact**, that can be bought from a regular pharmacy, can be applied topically on the affected area. Ringworm, which is a fungal infection, is visible as a circular bald and scaly patch on the skin of the kitten. Fungal infection can be treated by topical application of **KisKin lotion** that can be bought online or at pet stores/clinics. DO NOT use either on kittens younger than 6 weeks. Differentiating between bacterial and fungal infections may require consultation with a vet.



Table 1: Details of emergency medicine for foster kittens

Purpose	Medicine	Where to buy the medicine	How to administer and dosage
Cleaning a kitten	Himalaya Fresh Coat	Online or pet store/clinic	Spray on the kitten, avoiding eyes. Leave for 5 minutes. Towel dry. Brush the coat.
Bacterial conjunctivitis (pink eye)	Moxifloxacin eye drops	Over the counter from a regular pharmacy	Clean the eyes with warm water or saline solution using cotton.
	Saline solution		Apply the eye drops using a dropper. One drop for the infected eye 2-3 times a day
Wounds	Himalaya Scavon Ointment/Spray	Online or pet store/clinic	Clean wound with Betadine or warm water using cotton.
	Betadine	Betadine over the counter from a regular pharmacy	Spray or apply Himalayan Scavon
Fever	Himalaya Himpyrin	Online or pet store/clinic	Needs to be administered via a dropper. For kittens 0.1 ml for 2-3 days till the inflammation/ fever reduces.
Dehydration	Ordelyite Home made ORS	Online or pet store/clinic	Ordelyite: Add one sachet in 500 ml of water. For severe dehydration give 3 times a day not exceeding 100

Purpose	Medicine	Where to buy the medicine	How to administer and dosage
Diarrhea	<p>Gutwell</p> <p>Himalaya Digyton</p> <p>One BC</p> <p>Enterogermina</p> <p>Canigest</p>	<p>Gutwell, Himalaya Digyton and Canigest available online or pet store/ clinic</p> <p>One BC and Enterogermina can be bought over the counter from a regular pharmacy</p>	<p>ml over the day using a syringe. Home made ORS: Mix sugar with a pinch of salt in clean or boiled drinking water.</p> <p>Gutwell: Add a small pinch of Gutwell to the wet food, twice a day. Continue for two days after the diarrhea stops. If the kitten has a very bad tummy upset, take Gutwell mixed in water in a syringe and squirt into the kitten's mouth, once or twice a day.</p> <p>Himalaya Digyton: Give a few drops twice a day.</p> <p>One BC and Enterogermina: Can be administered via dropper or poured into food/water. Ideally should be washed down and hence given just before a meal. For kittens the dosage is 0.3 ml to be given once a day till the stool stabilises.</p> <p>Canigest: For kittens Canigest can be given once a day for 5 days to stabilise</p>

Purpose	Medicine	Where to buy the medicine	How to administer and dosage
Deworming	Nemocid drops	Over the counter from a regular pharmacy	<p>stool. Take a bit of the paste on your finger or in a spoon and get the kitten to lick it.</p> <p>Take a dose of 0.1 ml in a syringe and squirt from the side of the kitten's mouth into the throat.</p>
Defleaing	<p>Fiprotic or Fiprofort Spot-on</p> <p>Himalaya Erina-EP flea powder</p> <p>Fipronil spray</p> <p>Flea comb</p>	Online on or pet store/clinic	<p>Do this two days after the kitten settles down, and repeat after 10 days.</p> <p>Once the kittens settle down assess the extent of fleas and age of the kitten.</p> <p>Older than 8 weeks: Fiprotic or Fiprofort Spot-on.</p> <p>Between 5 and 8 weeks: Himalaya Erina-EP flea power and comb using flea comb.</p> <p>Fipronil spray (but only if there are a LOT of fleas). Spray all over avoiding eyes in a well ventilated area. Rub into skin. Leave for 2 minutes to dry.</p> <p>Younger than 5 weeks: Himalaya Erina-EP powder and flea comb.</p>

Purpose	Medicine	Where to buy the medicine	How to administer and dosage
Nasal congestion	Steaming	NA	<p>1) Place the kitten in a steaming bathroom for 10-15 minutes.</p> <p>2) Put the kitten in a cat carrier, place a steaming device or bowl of hot water in the front, cover the carrier and bowl/ device with a blanket or towel. Do this 2-4 times a day.</p> <p>3) Wrap the kitten in a towel and hold the kitten over the steaming device at a distance. Be careful not to scald the kitten. Do this for 5 minutes each time over 2-4times a day.</p> <p>Place the kitten in the sun for 10 minutes daily, ensure that no direct rays fall on the eyes.</p>
Developing immunity	<p>Visuid</p> <p>Himalaya Immunol</p>	Online or pet store/clinic	<p>Visuid: 0.1 ml over 5 days, once a day using a dropper or syringe into the kitten's mouth.</p> <p>Himalaya Immunol: Administered using dropper. Dosage 0.2 to 0.3 ml directly into the mouth. Should be given for 5 to</p>

Purpose	Medicine	Where to buy the medicine	How to administer and dosage
Bacterial infection on skin	T Bact (only kittens older than 6 weeks)	Over the counter from a regular pharmacy	7 days and reassessed and administered as required. Topical application on affected area
Fungal infection on skin	KisKin lotion (only kittens older than 6 weeks)	Online or pet store/clinic	Topical application on affected area
Ear mites	Virbac Epiotic Ear Cleanser for Dogs and Cats	Online or pet store/clinic	Clean ears manually with pet wipes and ear cleaning solution.

Table 2: How old is your foster kitten?

How do you know the age of your foster kitten? Here is a brief description of the characteristics of kittens over the first 8 weeks.

Kitten age	Characteristics
Newborn	Pink in colour Umbilical cord still attached Eyes closed 97 degrees; can't regulate their own temperature
1 week	Eyes closed Ears folded No umbilical cord
2 weeks	Eyes completely open, blue in colour Wobbly while standing up/ walking
3 weeks	Incisors emerging Ears unfolded Discovering litter box
4 weeks	Canines emerging Walking confidently
5 weeks	Premolars emerging Weaning slowly onto wet food
6 weeks	Molars emerging
7-8 weeks	All their milk teeth have emerged Transitioning into adult eye colour



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