

KITTEN 911

It happens far too often: You find a lost or stray kitten. If you cannot immediately locate a veterinarian or reputable animal shelter, you can provide care yourself. Just remember the Three H's:

HEAT: *Immediately warm the kitten by wrapping it in a towel or placing it on a heating pad (cover the pad with a soft blanket or towel so the kitten doesn't get burned).*

HYDRATION: *It's very important that kittens receive enough fluids. Kitten Milk Replacement (KMR) is a popular formula that comes in an easy-to-mix powder variety or premixed in cans. All-meat human baby food is also a good choice. Make sure all liquids, including water, are served lukewarm. Hold the kitten upright (not cradled like a baby) and SLOWLY feed the kitten, using a small bottle or syringe. At approximately six weeks of age, kittens will begin to drink water from a bowl, so be sure to provide fresh water at all times.*

HYGIENE: *Keep a supply of baby wipes or washcloths on hand to clean the kitten and wipe up any spills or accidents. Mom cats will lick the kitten's genital area to stimulate its bodily functions. If a mom is not available, encouraging bladder and bowel movements becomes your task. Wrap a warm, wet cloth around your finger and stroke gently in a circular motion on the kitten's anal/genital area. Once the kitten is older, she'll begin to use the litter box on her own. Be sure to clean all litter boxes on a daily basis.*