



What to Do if You Find Newborn Kittens

1) Wait

Mama may be looking for food or in the process of moving her family to a different location. Are the kittens in immediate danger from weather or wildlife? Healthy kittens can survive for hours without food as long as they are warm, so remove them only if they are in grave danger.

2) Watch

Before you decide kittens are truly orphaned, observe from a distance to see if the mother will return to her kittens. It may be several hours. If you get too close or touch the kittens, mom may be spooked by the scent or presence of people hovering near her babies.

3) Help

If mom comes back and the area is safe, leave the kittens with her until they are weaned. You can offer a safe shelter and food, but keep the food some distance from the shelter, as the mother will want to keep other cats away from her litter. If mom doesn't come back for several hours, remove the kittens. Their best chance for survival without their mother is if you bottle feed and care for them yourself until they are ready for adoption.



Tony La Russa's Animal Rescue Foundation

Walnut Creek, CA • (925) 256-1273 • (800) 567-1273 • arflife.org/pet-care-and-behavior-library