

Caring for an Abandoned or Orphaned Newborn



Ok, so you found a newborn furry baby. Ok, don't freak out!

First, make every effort to reunite them with their mother! Call around to find out if anyone knows anyone whose cat or dog recently had babies. 99% of the time they will be very accommodating to the new orphans!

If this is not possible, you must take action! Since newborns are NOT ABLE to go to the bathroom on their own, immediately stimulate their genital area with a damp cotton ball, tissue, or a warm washcloth to prevent kidney failure. Gently rub their little bottoms as well.

If you don't have a nursing bottle, you will need to get an eyedropper to feed them. If you are using the eyedropper, DO NOT OVERFEED! They don't need more than one drop at a time, or they will aspirate the formula into their lungs (once it's there they can't get it out, so they will die if this happens.)

Here is the home-made formula recipe I have used for years. Shake up the ingredients in an empty bottle or jar:

- 1 cup EVAPORATED milk (NOT CONDENSED MILK)
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 teaspoon canola oil
- 1 teaspoon Caro Syrup
- 6 drops of any children's liquid vitamins (Pet Tinic or other liquid vitamins available from any vet)
- 2 egg (yolks ONLY)

Orphans will eat small amounts on the hour if they are starving, soon they adjust and need to eat every 3-4 hours. Most will sleep 6-7 hours at night once over the critical stage depending on how long they were without food. A 3-week old kitten feeds 3 or 4 times a day and WILL use a small litter box if you put one in their crate. (Use a small pie pan or something they can crawl into easily). Until then, you will need to continue to stimulate elimination with each feeding (that's what their mothers would be doing for them if they were available... remember YOU are the parent at this crucial time!)

Sit bottle in warm water to heat. Do not reheat. Keep original formula in refrigerator and only use what you need each feeding as this formula sours quickly when left out!

If you have any questions, you can call the show voicemail at 251-494-8236 to leave a message for one of the Roxbury Rescues team members. We will try to get back with you as soon as possible!