



Kitten Socialization Checklist

Starting Age (in days) _____

Kitten Names: _____

Each day it is important to pick up the kittens, admire them, talk to them and spend time with each one individually. Keep all interactions fun, short, and positive. It's best to keep interactions brief (5-10 minutes) but frequent rather than long and less often. Any experience a kitten perceives as traumatic during this time is generalized and may affect them their entire life.

Neonatal period: Birth to 12 days

Kitten can't hear or see well, stays close to mother and littermates. These tasks should be done one after the other once a day for the first 12 days.

Gentle Handling	Age in weeks						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Hold kitten perpendicular to the ground against your body (straight up and down) for 3-5 seconds							
Pretend to examine and touch: Head, neck, paws, legs, ears, tail, and back							
Lift up and held longer							
Collar put on and remove							
Lift lip to check teeth							
Turn over and touch belly							
Lift tail and look under							
Place into cat carrier							
Groom with soft brush							
Place in cat carrier and take for short rides							
Begin separating litter mates for 2 minutes at a time							
Poking skin with capped pen							
Putting a doll tee or harness on							

Surfaces to Walk On	Age in weeks						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Shiny surfaces (tile, linoleum, wood flooring, etc.)							
Rough surfaces (carpet, concrete, rough wood, etc.)							
Floor with scattered plastic bottles or containers (empty and clean) to navigate around							
Toilet paper rolls							
Paper							
Face towels tied with a knot (take from the shelter)							
Other							

Sounds	Age in weeks						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Radio-Light music station							
Radio-Talk station							
Household sounds (vacuum, flushing water, washer, dryer, noises from the street, etc.)							
People talking loudly							
Natural elements (rain, storms, running water, birds, etc.)							
Dog barking							

Scent in Area	Age in weeks						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cloth smelling of a vaccinated, healthy dog (Needs approval from foster coordinator)							
Cloth smelling of a vaccinated, healthy cat (Needs approval from foster coordinator)							
Cloth smelling of a vaccinated, healthy rabbit (Needs approval from foster coordinator)							

Additional Socialization	Age in Weeks						
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Exposure to cat toys that look, sound, and feel different (ball with bell, crinkle ball, mouse etc)							
Daily playtime with littermates							
Take two at a time for short car rides							
Under supervision, put on their collars for short periods of time to acclimate them to wearing them. Remove when done.							
Putting small t-shirts for preparation for harness							
Separate kittens from each other for 30 minutes to an hour to prepare them for separation.							
Unfamiliar friendly cats (through a solid)							
Unfamiliar dogs (through a solid)							
Other pets (through a solid)							
Putting a doll tee or harness on							