

WEANING KITTENS CHECKLIST



0-4/5 WEEKS OLD *weigh daily around same time & note

DATE: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

- Strictly nurse from mom
- To avoid mastitis &/or other issues observe the following throughout entire weaning process:
 - Keep bedding very dry
 - Keep kitten(s) faces & paws clean
 - Trim kitten(s) nails starting around 2-3wks of age **Fosters, please skip this step.*

NOTES: _____

4-5 WEEKS OLD *weigh daily around same time & note

DATE: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

- Introduce kitten(s) to wet food and/or gruel. Some kittens may prefer dry kitten kibble. It will take time before they become confident, skilled eaters from a food dish. What do we like to eat? _____
- Once confidently eating from dish, gradually change food mixture from watery to a thicker consistency.
- Prepare a space for mom to be housed when she is separated. Where? _____
- Observe mom & kitten(s) when separated. Do they appear comfortable? Yes Both / Only Mom / Only Kitten(s)
 - This includes but not limited to: no pacing, crying out or digging at cage door. They should be resting, grooming and/or playing with predominantly soft and loose body language.
- If comfortable, separate for feed/clean times only. Allow enough time for both mom & kitten(s) to finish eating & for the kitten(s) to get cleaned up. *Approx. 20-30min each for breakfast, lunch & dinner.* Also, introduce a shallow water dish in the kitten area.
- If not comfortable separated, speak with Medical or Foster Care Coordinator

NOTES: _____

5-6 WEEKS OLD *weigh daily around same time & note

DATE: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

- Are the kitten(s) eating confidently on own? If NO, please note which kitten(s) below Y / N
- If confident, separate for morning feed/clean and return mom to kittens after lunch feed/clean. Continue to separate for dinner clean/feed.
- If not confident eating, speak with Medical or Foster Care Coordinator

NOTES: _____

6-8+ WEEKS OLD *weigh daily around same time & note

DATE: ___/___/___ to ___/___/___

- Separate mom for morning clean/feed & return to kitten(s) after dinner feed/clean. *You will need to work up to the full time gradually. Make notes below.*
- Once kittens are fully weaned, switch mom to ¼ cup of adult dry food 2x/day for drying up her milk supply. This is typically a 2-week process. Continue to provide mom with an endless supply of water.
- Alert medical if you see that the kittens are not gaining weight, mom is lethargic, mom has appetite loss, mom's mammary glands are large/red/swollen (esp. after 1wk of not nursing) and/or anything abnormal.

NOTES: _____
