

How to determine the age of newborn kittens



Less than 3 days old



Kittens weigh approximately 90–100 grams (3 to 3½ ounces) at birth. Their eyes are completely closed and the umbilical cord is still attached. They cannot stand on their own and cannot regulate their own temperature.

3–7 days old

Eyes completely closed, ears folded down, cannot stand, no teeth and umbilical cord has fallen off



7–10 days old

Eyes mostly closed or beginning to open, no umbilical cord attached, ears folded down, cannot stand and cannot regulate their own temperature



10–14 days old

Eyes open and bright blue in color but vision is still blurry, ears starting to unfold, no teeth, cannot regulate their own temperature



2 weeks old

Eyes completely open and blue in color, no umbilical cord, rounded ear shape, no teeth, attempting to stand, may try hissing, cannot regulate their own temperature



3 weeks old

Eyes completely open and blue in color, ears becoming erect, small incisors beginning to break through the gums, more aware of their surroundings, able to stand, walk and play



4 weeks old

Eyes completely open and blue in color, pointed ear shape, canine teeth starting to appear, could start to eat some wet food, ideally should weigh one pound, starting to spend less time with mom, can regulate their own temperature, able to walk, run and play



5 weeks old

Eyes completely open and starting to change color, pointed ear shape, lower pre-molar teeth have emerged, eating wet food, able to walk, run and play



6 weeks old

Eyes completely open and color is changing, pointed ear shape, eating wet food and dry kibble (but could still try to nurse), grooming themselves, able to walk, run and play and becoming more agile



7 weeks old

Eyes completely open and color is changing, pointed ear shape, almost fully weaned, eating wet food and dry kibble, able to walk, run and play



8 weeks old

Eyes completely open and adult eye color is setting in, pointed ear shape, upper pre-molars have emerged, eating wet food and dry kibble, ideally should weigh two pounds, able to walk, run and play and acting like an adult



Together, we can Save Them All.

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters. In addition to running lifesaving programs in partnership with nearly 3,000 animal welfare groups across the country, Best Friends has lifesaving centers in New York City, Los Angeles, Atlanta and Salt Lake City, and operates the nation's largest no-kill sanctuary for companion animals. Founded in 1984, Best Friends is a pioneer in the no-kill movement and has helped reduce the number of animals killed in shelters nationwide from an estimated 17 million per year to around 733,000. That means there are still about 2,000 dogs and cats killed every day in shelters, just because they don't have safe places to call home. We are determined to bring the country to no-kill by the year 2025. Working collaboratively with shelters, rescue groups, other organizations and you, we will end the killing and Save Them All. To check out our community lifesaving dashboard and for more information, visit bestfriends.org.

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