

**How you react when you find a kitten in your area this spring could mean life or death.** Bringing home a stray or feral kitten isn't always the answer—for them or you. Please read the following information to decide what is right for you and the adorable outdoor kittens.

## Newborn kittens

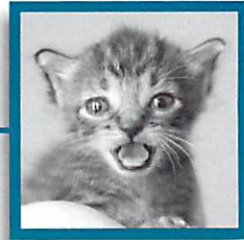
From birth to three weeks, kittens are fully dependent upon their mother, just opening their eyes for the first time, and are considered "neonatal." Caring for kittens at this stage takes hours each day. If kittens are truly motherless, see our free step-by-step guide for help at [www.alleycat.org/neonatal](http://www.alleycat.org/neonatal)

### 1-2 weeks



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### 3-4 weeks



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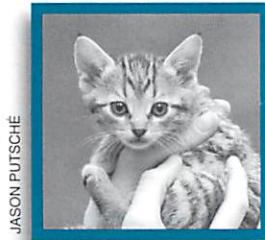
## Don't assume they are safe at a shelter:

Did you know that neonatal kittens and young feral kittens and feral cats who wind up in shelters stand almost no chance of being adopted? They will most likely be killed. Instead of death, give kittens life and a good home. Visit [www.alleycat.org/homes](http://www.alleycat.org/homes) for other adoption tips.

## You CAN tame feral kittens:

Up to eight weeks old, kittens who are "born feral" can be socialized. With close care and time, they can become affectionate and loving companions. At five to six weeks, you're still in the green zone for adoption! Learn more at [www.alleycat.org/socialization](http://www.alleycat.org/socialization)

### 5-6 weeks



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### 8-9 weeks



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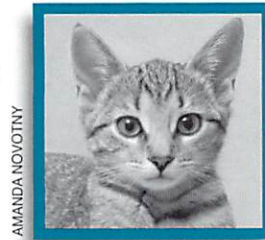
## Spay baby, spay!

As soon as kittens weigh two pounds—around eight weeks—they can be safely spayed or neutered through a proven procedure known as "early-age spay neuter." Spaying at six months (a common misconception) is too late—cats can become pregnant as young as 16 weeks. Make it a 2-for-1 and Trap-Neuter-Return mom too!

## Trapping safe: tips

When you decide to trap the kittens near you, make sure to do so safely. Only use appropriate sized traps, and please plan for one trap per kitten. Bring the kitten (in the trap) to a veterinarian or clinic near you to be neutered. Then return the kitten to her original colony to live her life outdoors with her family!

### 2 months+



AMANDA NOVOTNY

### 2 1/2 months+ Is that kitten too big?



AMANDA NOVOTNY

Most kittens are fully weaned by ten weeks. They can still be socialized but with greater difficulty. Kittens who are four or more months old can remain in their outdoor homes—after they've been spayed or neutered and vaccinated of course!