

## Feeding Foster Kittens

BHS preferred food brands are KMR kitten formula and Science Diet Kitten canned and dry food. Feeding these aids in the transition to life in the shelter because that is what BHS feeds in-house. If you have a thin kitten that will not eat the Science Diet well, feel free to provide other brands/flavors to see if you can get them eating better.

**Bottle Babies**- see “Maddie’s Fund” feeding chart provided

- At 3-4 weeks of age, kittens should have their chewing teeth (premolars on the sides of mouth) so you can begin offering the bottle baby gruel (see below). Do not offer gruel if they don’t have their premolars yet. Some kittens will eat the gruel\* better out of a syringe initially.

**Kittens transitioning to solid food (usually 3-4 weeks of age):**

- Provide gruel\* (applesauce consistency) in a shallow bowl 4 times per day. Gruel can consist of canned kitten food mixed with water (if hearty kittens) or mixed with KMR (if kittens are thin, not gaining weight properly, or still heavily reliant on the taste of KMR). Some kittens need to be coaxed to eat initially by feeding them small amounts of the gruel with a spoon and then slowly moving the spoon down to the bowl while the kitten is eating from the spoon. Basically, they need to learn to bend their heads down to eat from a bowl.
- Provide fresh water and dry kitten food at all times.

**Kittens 5-7 weeks of age:**

- Feed 3-4 times a day- ¼ can (5oz can) kitten food per kitten per feeding
- Provide fresh water and dry kitten food at all times.
- Nursing mother cats should be fed whenever the kittens are fed. They should eat kitten food too. Provide both canned (at least ½ can per feeding) and have dry food available at all times.

Food is provided by Baltimore Humane Society but If you are able to provide food yourself, that is fabulous. We welcome that donation.

Dr. Zink- 06/9/21