



# KEEPING KITTENS OUT OF THE SHELTER

Every year shelters across the country are overwhelmed with the amount of kittens pouring in. By keeping them out of the shelter, you truly are a lifesaver.

Even just keeping kittens until they are about 2 months old and weigh 2 lbs is a **huge** help to us. You're giving them much-needed socialization **and** freeing up a kennel or foster home until the kittens can be spayed/neutered and adopted.

If you can rehome the kittens on your own and avoid the shelter altogether, that is the best option!

## WHAT KITTENS NEED

- **A safe place for them to stay** - Give the kittens a warm, dry place to live indoors (a spare bathroom or even a dog crate equipped with a small litter tray works well; kittens can't escape but can see out).
- **Age-appropriate food** - see below for feeding suggestions.
- **Litterbox and litter** - going in the litterbox is a natural instinct for most kittens, so most won't need training!
- **Play and love** - this will make their transition to living with people much easier.

The Pet Resource Center at Austin Animal Center is happy to share items as donations allow. Email us at [pet.resources@austintexas.gov](mailto:pet.resources@austintexas.gov) - about supplies such as litterboxes, food, bowls, toys, etc!

## FEEDING

### 0-3 weeks

These kittens require bottle feeding with Kitten Milk Replacer if they've been orphaned. Check out the Kitten Lady ([kittenlady.org](http://kittenlady.org)) for videos and information on how to bottle feed.

### 3-6 weeks

We affectionately call these kittens "gruel babies" because they eat a mixture of wet food and Kitten Milk Replacer (and usually end up with it all over their faces). It's best to also have a bowl of dry food available so they start to eat that as well.

### 6-8 weeks

Kittens should be graduated to dry kitten food at this age, although you can supplement with wet food.

## REHOMING

Use Nextdoor, Facebook, and ask friends and family to help network the cat. You can also post on the website [rehome.adoptapet.com](http://rehome.adoptapet.com) and [PASS Positive Alternatives to Shelter Surrender](https://www.facebook.com/PASS-Positive-Alternatives-to-Shelter-Surrender) FB group.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Low cost spay/neuter

- FREE (must weigh at least 3 lbs): Emancipet Mobile Clinic - [emancipet.org/mobile/](http://emancipet.org/mobile/)
- Texas Humane Heroes (must weight at least 2 lbs) - [humaneheroes.org/clinic\\_services/](http://humaneheroes.org/clinic_services/)

### Low cost vaccinations

- Emancipet - [emancipet.org/](http://emancipet.org/)
- Texas Humane Heroes - [humaneheroes.org/clinic\\_services/](http://humaneheroes.org/clinic_services/)

### Medical vouchers- for sick and injured cats

- [communitycats@austintexas.gov](mailto:communitycats@austintexas.gov)

### Free microchip

- Austin Animal Center - [pet.resources@austintexas.gov](mailto:pet.resources@austintexas.gov)



# KEEPING ADULT CATS OUT OF THE SHELTER

Did you know that the average found pet in Austin is picked up just 0.2 miles from home?

And that the national reclaim rate for cats in shelters is just 2%? By keeping an adult cat in the community where they were found, you are greatly increasing their chance of getting back home to their family.



## SHELTER-NEUTER-RETURN

Austin Animal Center does not accept healthy found cats into our adoption program, regardless of friendliness. Our Shelter-Neuter-Return (SNR) program ensures that healthy found cats are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear tipped and then returned to the exact location they were found. This increases the likelihood of the cat going back home and saves space in the shelter for owner surrendered, sick, and injured cats.

To use this program, request an appointment for SNR by completing this form: <https://bit.ly/strayintake>

## FOUND REPORT

If you'd prefer that the cat not go through the SNR program, you can hang on to the cat and look for their family by filing a Found report. All the cat needs is a safe place like a bathroom or garage and basic supplies like a litterbox and food. The Pet Resource Center has a limited supply of donated items on hand that we'd like to share so email us at [pet.resources@austintexas.gov](mailto:pet.resources@austintexas.gov) about items like litterboxes, food, bowls, toys, etc!

1. Take the cat to a vet clinic or Austin Animal Center to be scanned for a microchip.
2. File a Found Report through this website: <http://bit.ly/foundreport1>
3. Post the pet as found on sites like Nextdoor, Craigslist and Austin Lost and Found Pets FB group.
4. Hang flyers in the area where you found the cat.

## REHOMING

14 days after you file the Found Report, you can look for a new home for the cat. Use Nextdoor, Facebook, and ask friends and family to help network the cat. You can also post on the website [rehome.adoptapet.com](http://rehome.adoptapet.com) or [PASS- Positive Alternatives to Shelter Surrender](https://www.facebook.com/PASS-Positive-Alternatives-to-Shelter-Surrender) Facebook page.

## COMMUNITY CATS & TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN

If you need assistance trapping a cat for spay/neuter, Austin Animal Center's Community Cats program has volunteers to help! The cat will then be fixed, vaccinated, ear tipped, and returned to their community. There are also limited medical vouchers available through this program if you find a sick or injured cat. Email [communitycats@austintexas.gov](mailto:communitycats@austintexas.gov) for more information.

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

### Community Cats Program- AAC & AHS

- [communitycats@austintexas.gov](mailto:communitycats@austintexas.gov)
- 512-978-0504

### Low cost spay/neuter & vaccinations

- Emancipet - [emancipet.org/](http://emancipet.org/)
- Texas Humane Heroes - [humaneheroes.org/clinic\\_services/](http://humaneheroes.org/clinic_services/)

### Free microchip

- Austin Animal Center

