

## Single Kittens & Quarantines

🐾 Raising single kittens may seem like an easy task, I mean how hard can it be taking care of just one kitten, right? Let's take a closer look on the risks of having single kittens:

👉 A lonely, single kitten can be a problem. Single kittens tend to play too roughly and often have a higher risk of developing behavior issues. In order to become well-socialized cats, kittens need to learn appropriate behavior from one another. As much as we try, humans are not a substitute for feline companions. You can provide attention and love but there is simply no way you can replicate the play and behavior of other species.

👉 If they don't learn play limits while they are young, they often develop inappropriate playful aggression. Meaning, it may be cute when a kitten attacks your ankles when you walk by or playfully nips at your fingers while you're playing but won't be cute, not to mention annoying and painful, when they are full grown.

😺 Let's also not forget that kittens playing together is one of the most adorable and entertaining activities you will ever see!

👉 One of our goals is to work closely with our foster families who take on single kittens in making sure they watch the Foster Facebook page diligently for another single or even a group to eventually combine.

👉 When doing this please be sure to review our Intros and Quarantine information below.

INTROS & QUARANTINE

We love for kittens to go out in pairs but sometimes we get single kittens that come into the shelter. We make sure the kittens are around the same size and energy levels when attempting to match pairs.

Please quarantine the kitten for 2 weeks to look for signs of illness before doing the introduction. If you notice any issues with your new foster please reach out to the foster department.

Please follow the steps below when adding kittens into your existing foster group:

- Gradually introduce the kittens
- Signs of a good interaction include both kittens initiation play and that neither of the kittens seemed stressed
- It can be normal for kittens to initially hiss, swat, or play rough with some vocalization. Monitor these signs closely and do small, positive interactions for a while
- Bowls and litterboxes are shared with no issues

**When there is a problem:**

- Persistent bullying by a kitten
- Bullying is not distracted/interrupted by toys
- One kitten keeps other from bowls/litterboxes

When in doubt separate them and always reach out to the foster department as soon as possible if you are having issues.



Quarantine for 2 weeks before introductions!

We are sure you have read/heard by now that you should keep your fosters away from your owned pets at home. This is important for the following reasons:

- Kittens may be harboring something that could make your owned animals sick.
- We aren't sure how everyone will get along and we don't want anyone getting hurt.
- Fort Wayne Animal Care & Control is not responsible for any illness/injury to your owned pets.