

Found kittens? STOP! Leave kittens alone!
Mom offers the best chance for survival.

Did mom return?

YES

Hooray! Let her care for them until they are 8 weeks old. Make sure mom and all kittens get spayed and neutered. If they are not tame, call Clay County Animal Services at (904) 269-6342 for help with Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Return (TNVR).

NO

You'd make a great foster parent! During kitten season, shelters in Clay County are overrun with kittens and don't have adequate resources to care for them. Please care for them in your home until 8 weeks old. Ask your veterinarian if any local resources are available to help. Visit www.AnimalAllianceAgency.org for tips on what to do and not to do if you find newborn kittens.

Help them find homes.

Check with friends, family and neighbors to see if they are looking to adopt a loving, fixed feline.

Try featuring the kittens on a free rehoming website such as:

www.rehome.adoptapet.com

FOUND KITTENS?

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO,
AND WHY



Clay County Animal Services
3984 State Rd. 16W
Green Cove Springs, FL 32043
Phone: 904-269-6342

[Facebook.ClayCtyAnimals](https://www.facebook.com/ClayCtyAnimals)
www.claycountygov.com



1. MOM KNOWS BEST

Most discoveries of newborn kittens, thankfully do not require human assistance. In fact, NOT intervening is generally the best thing you can do. If you find young kittens without their mom, it does not mean they have been abandoned. The mother could be looking for food, or finding a more suitable home for her litter. If you find one or two kittens, their mother may be in the process of moving the family, and is on her way back for the others.

THINGS TO REMEMBER: Keeping mom and her kittens together in a warm and dry location away from predators ensures the best chances for the kittens survival.

In the first few weeks of their lives, kittens need their mother's care and antibodies from her milk. As they grow, she will begin to give her kittens the critical training they will need to survive.

2. WATCH AND WAIT

Quietly observe from a safe distance (35 feet or more) to determine if mom is present. If the kittens are clean and sleeping in a pile, mom is likely out hunting for food. If mom hasn't returned in 4-8 hours, she probably won't be coming back. At this point, intervention is recommended. Remember, if mom senses the presence of humans she will stay away from the litter.

3. HANDS OFF

Do not interfere if mom may still be around. It is essential that you do not handle the kittens, try to keep them warm or feed them. These interventions may cause the mother to abandon her kittens. If mom is friendly, you may consider moving her and her litter into a garage or your home.

4. BE HELPFUL

You can help the mother best by providing food and water. Be sure to place the dishes far enough away from the nest that you do not disturb mom and kittens, or draw predators such as raccoons to the little family. And of course, keep dogs and children far away.

5. STERILIZATION

Mom will need to be spayed, but NOT NOW. Call a veterinarian to determine the best time to spay the mother. Once the kittens are weaned (typically 5-6 weeks of age), they can safely be separated from their mother. Begin socializing the kittens if needed, and schedule the surgery. Remember, a female cat can become pregnant 6-8 weeks after giving birth so don't wait too long.

