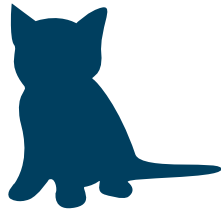


**WAIT
'TIL 8**



Join the
movement!

Marion
County
FLORIDA
ANIMAL SERVICES

Wait 'Til 8 means to wait until kittens are eight weeks old before rehoming, taking them away from their mother, sterilizing them, or turning them in to a shelter. This message is to educate our citizens about the urgent need for proper care of young *socialized* kittens.

To learn more about kittens, community cats, & cat programs, scan the QR code below!



Shelters and rescues do not have all of the resources and staff available to care for all of the unweaned kittens in Marion County. Due to overcrowding and potential for the spread of disease, shelters should be a last resort to provide animal care.



Keeping kittens fed, warm, and safe in a home or lodge while they are at this tender age is imperative to keeping them alive and well until we can assist. Our shelter and partnering agencies may be able to provide supplies for "Good Samaritan" foster parents who are willing to offer care. Once they can be sterilized, several of our local pet agencies can be contacted for support.

Special thanks to our partners!



352-671-8700



ANIMALSERVICES@MARIONFL.ORG

Found Kittens? Don't KIT-NAP!

If you've found kittens in **MARION COUNTY** here's what to do.

START HERE: Are the kittens injured or critically sick?

YES



Marion County Animal Control
Call: 352-671-8727

NO

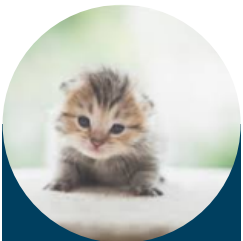


ESTIMATE THE AGE OF THE KITTENS



0-2 WEEKS OLD

Eyes closed or barely open



2-4 WEEKS OLD

Eyes open and alert; becoming mobile



4-6 WEEKS OLD

Very mobile and often talkative; can eat food



6-8 WEEKS OLD

Very active and playful; around 1-2 pounds



8+ WEEKS OLD

Very active and playful; 2 pounds or more

STOP! Can you see the **momma cat or a nest?**



If the kittens are friendly, utilize social media and your personal network to try and place them in homes. Check with local shelters and clinics about spay/neuter options. Remember to include mom and dad...help stop the cycle!

Don't KIT-NAP!

A kitten's best chance of survival is with mom. **Leave the kittens where they are.**

If you want to help, make sure mom has access to shelter, food, and water. Work with a spay/neuter group to have mom and kittens fixed when ready.

ARE YOU SURE?

Mom may be off hunting or not want to come around if people are present. Watch for her to come back for a few hours.

PRO TIP: Leave a ring of flour around the kittens. Check in a few hours later to see if you see mom's foot prints are in the flour!

MOM CAME BACK

STILL NO MOM

If you step in, **YOU** are assuming the responsibility to provide care and raise the kittens. Check with local organizations and your veterinarian for support and resources to help you with this option.