When we find a litter of kittens, our good-hearted instincts tell us to jump in and help. Thankfully, human intervention is typically not required. If the kittens are not ill, injured, or in immediate danger, the best thing you can do is to leave them alone. Mother cats may leave their litters for several hours while looking for food or avoiding humans. Mom will likely return shortly, and it's critical that the kittens remain in her care as she offers the best chance for their survival.

Are the kittens visibly sick, injured, or malnourished?

- **NO**
  - Call 3-1-1, visit 333/chicago.gov or bring to CACC between 12-7
  - Are the kittens old enough to be separated from mom?
    - **NO**, THEY ARE NOT YET 6 WEEKS OLD*
      - Do you see a nest or hiding spot?
        - **NO**
          - If in danger, move to a safe spot close by
        - **YES**
          - Gently return kittens to their hiding spot
    - **YES**, THEY ARE 6 WEEKS OR OLDER
      - Are the kittens friendly?
        - **NO**
          - If older than 12 weeks > TNR (see resource section)
        - **YES**
          - See resources for finding a home

*See kitten age chart on the other side.

Don't take her babies.
If the kittens are:
- Warm • Clean • Plump • Quiet
Mom is doing her job.
She'll be back shortly.
Please don't kitnap her babies.

Mom might be missing.
If the kittens are:
- Cold • Dirty • Skinny
Kittens can't regulate their body temperature, so a kitten that is both cold AND skinny, and/or dirty might be orphaned. Look for sunken bellies, visible bones, or pale skin to confirm kittens need help. See resources on the other side.
MOST KITTENS FOUND OUTSIDE SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE.
IF THE KITTEN IS INJURED, ILL, OR IN IMMEDIATE DANGER:
● Call 311 or visit 311.CHICAGO.GOV
● Bring kittens to CACC: 2741 S. Western Ave. (12-7 P.M.)

What’s Next?
Cats can have multiple litters per year. Helping outdoor cats get spayed/neutered is part of a movement called Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). TNR ensures no kittens are born, stabilizes cat populations, provides vaccines, and improves cats’ lives. It also stops the behaviors and stresses associated with mating such as yowling, spraying, and fighting. Learn how to help: bit.ly/tnralleycat

Local Resources
PAWS Chicago Focus: South side; Clinic: 773-521-7729; Outreach: feralneighborhoodcats@pawschicago.org; 773-475-9410
Tree House Focus: North side; 773-262-4000; tnr@treehouseanimals.org
Whiskers and Tails Focus: Northwest side; info@whiskersandtailsfoundation.org
TripleRPets Focus: Southwest side/south suburbs; info@triplerpets.org; 708-738-1438
Anti-Cruelty Society Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic; anticruelty.org; 312-644-8338
Feral Feline Project Focus: North/northwest suburbs; feralfelineproject@gmail.com; 847-800-0095
CatVando Focus: Near west suburbs; catvando.org

How old is this kitten?
Newborn kittens fit in the palm. They can’t see, hear or keep themselves warm. They are 100% dependent on their mom or caretaker and must be bottle fed 6-8 times a day without her.

We call four-week-old kittens “mush babies.” They are learning to eat on their own and exploring the world, but still need a lot of care.

At 6 weeks, kittens weigh 1.5 - 2 Lbs. They can usually be spayed/neutered, vaccinated, adopted or returned to their colonies.