

Are you kitten me?

NEWSLETTER-THE KITTEN EDITION

What is kitten season?

It's that time of year again when shelters and rescues are flooded with kittens from strays, pet owners who were not expecting a litter, abandoned cats that come to us pregnant and well-meaning Samaritans that find kittens and take them to a shelter. Kitten season hits in the spring and ends in the fall. Kitten season is a strain on rescue resources – time, money and space. Because of this, we are asking YOU to help this kitten season.

Here are some ways you can help...

- Spay or neuter your pets. Even if your cat is indoor only, what if he or she escapes?
- Support trap and release programs to take care of your community cats.
- Become a foster parent for kittens until they are old enough for adoption. Taking a mother and kittens is the easiest; Mama takes care of all the work! If you have more time to offer, then take on a litter of motherless kittens or a singleton.
- Donate. Money or supplies.
- Adopt, do not shop. Adopt your furry friends from Town Cats/rescue shelters and ask your friends to do the same.
- Share. Follow and support Town Cats by friending us on social media and sharing adoption pics that we post.

Kitten season is literally a population explosion of tremendous proportions. Just consider some basic numbers. A female cat can get pregnant as young as 5 months and can be in heat every three weeks. The typical size of a litter is 4-6 kittens, so we are potentially looking at 18 kittens per cat per season. That means that one 7 year old cat and all of her offspring could produce over 400,000 cats. That's an explosion!

Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure that your own cat is spayed or neutered. If you (someone you know) have a cat that needs neutering and finances are limited, Contact Town Cats, we offer low cost spay and neuter services.

2015 TOWN CAT STATS

Adoptions 53

Spay/neuters 277

Community cats fed daily
Over 200

**43 KITTENS CURRENTLY IN
PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR
ADOPTION SOON!**



**A very special thanks to
the Snyder Foundation
who have been a great
supporter of our work
with feral and homeless
cats, and spay/neuter
services.**



FOUND KITTENS? NOW WHAT?

What to do or not do if you find kittens? Many people 'rescue' kittens who are way too young to be separated from their mother, not realizing in reality they have just radically lessened the kitten's chances of survival. While we all want to help, it's best to not just rush in and grab those cute kittens. It's important that kittens stay with their mother whenever possible.

Determine if Kittens Are Abandoned: Momma cats will leave her kittens for short periods of time to find food and water. Monitoring kittens' behavior is the best way to determine if they are really abandoned. Observe the kittens from a distance for at least 4 hours before determining that they've been abandoned. If you have been monitoring the area, and you are still unsure whether the kittens are abandoned or not, sprinkle a bit of flour around where the kittens are nestled and look for paw prints when you return. If there is no immediate danger for the kittens, it is best not to disturb them at this point. If after four hours, momma has not returned, you may have to conclude she has abandoned her kittens. As tiny kittens easily become chilled and dehydrated, this would be the time we recommend human intervention.

If you check every two to three hours and the kittens are content and not fussing, they are most likely not abandoned. In this instance, the best option, whenever possible and as long as the kittens are in a safe location, is to leave the kittens alone with their mom and contact Town Cats for advice. You can help momma cat by providing food and water. Mom cats need to eat kitten food, both dry and canned, for the extra calories. It is best to place food away from the nest so you do not disturb mom and kittens and do not draw predators to the nest. Always place the food in the same location and feed at the same time each day. This will help later when trying to trap momma cat. Town Cats will advise you on when the family can be trapped, spayed and neutered and if the cats are friendly and can be placed up for adoption or if they should to be returned to their outside home.

Need help? Contact Town Cats!

Determining age...

You can try to determine a kittens age by using these basic guide-lines:

Under one week: Kittens' eyes are shut, ears are folded down, and they are not walking. They are purring and making tiny noises.

One-two weeks: Kittens' eyes start to open—they are blue—and focus and ears begin to open. They are crawling, snuggling, and kneading.

Three weeks: Kittens' eyes fully open and ears are open and standing up. They are responding to noises and movement and taking their first steps.

Four-six weeks: Kittens are probably running, playing, digging, and pouncing. They are starting to wean, and eyes have changed from blue to their adult color.

Eight weeks: Kittens look like little versions of full grown cats.



UPCOMING...

YARD SALE-May 21
Donations being accepted that week

Ocean Pines Farmers Market every Saturday morning from 8-1.

June 18-Town Cats day at Paws and Whiskers fundraiser at the Ocean Pines Farmers Market.

Quarter Auction-July 30 at The American Legion post 123 in Berlin. Taking auction donation items now. Tickets on sale! Contact Robyn 410-629-9134

T-Shirts FOR SALE-Support Town Cats by wearing our T-shirt-available at Farmers Market for \$12 or at any of our events

OC Pet Spa-stop by and visit some of our cats

OC Pet Spa, located in West Ocean City on 611, has been such a blessing to Town Cats of Ocean City. Between their full grooming schedules they offer many of our kitties a safe place to stay while they wait for their foster families or forever homes!

Since partnering with OC Pet Spa in 2015, Town Cats has really been able to grow. When we asked Kathy, owner at OC Pet Spa, why she decided to partner with Town Cats, her answer was a huge compliment to us. She remarked that our cats were so well cared for and vetted, loved, and socialized. Another thing that she remarked on is that we check in on our cats so often, to monitor their progress and also just to visit. We are glad that it is obvious to others how much we love and want the very best for all of our cats!

Regardless of what nice things they had to say about us, we truly appreciate our OC Pet Spa partnership. They have gone above and beyond what we could have hoped for by building amazing cat enclosures, helping care for the cats, and helping the cats get set up with adoptive families and fosters. We are so lucky to have their help, and our local cat community is very lucky too! We are able to save so many more cats, and provide more care and spay neuter services to reduce the local feral cat population, because we have them on our team!

If you think you might be interested in adopting a cat or kitten into your family, or taking on the rewarding task of fostering kittens or pregnant mamas and their litters, Town Cats and OC Pet Spa are a great place to start. It IS kitten season, after all!

TOWN CATS CATALOG...COMING SOON...



“The smallest feline is a masterpiece.” Leonardo da Vinci

THE QUILT IS IN!!!

A shout out to Martha for another great quilt! Not only is Martha an adopter for 2 Town Cats kitties, but she has been providing a quilt for Town Cat to use as a raffle prize for over a decade. It is a favorite of our supporters! This years tickets are now available. Thank you Martha for your continued support!

Raffle Tickets included-return in enclosed envelope with ticket stub and money. For more tickets contact Anita. Drawing in November.



June is adopt a shelter cat month! Let us help you find your next furry friend!

CONTACT US—Town Cats Team

Anita - General info....713-305-9667

Spay Neuters....coordinator position open

Monique - Volunteer opportunities....610-657-9060

Chris - Adoptions....610-716-3704

Robyn – Fundraising....410-629-9134

The mission of Town Cats is to enrich the lives of free-roaming, feral, and/or abandoned cats in the Ocean City and surrounding communities by limiting the population growth and providing medical care through Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR), and affordable adoption services.

Please help us to spay and neuter as many as possible.

\$50 will provide one low cost spay or neuter.

DONATIONS

Your tax deductible donations can be sent to ...

Town Cats Inc.

PO BOX 1405

Ocean Pines, MD 21811

(713)305-9667

Visit us on the web at

towncats.net

Or on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/towncatsofoceancity/>