



# Love them for life

## PREVENTING DIARRHOEA IN KITTENS

Kittens defecate at least two or more times a day with adequate nutrition. As with any infant mammal, diarrhoea can be common and cyclical. In kittens up to 3 to 4 months of age, at least some loose faeces will appear, usually toward the end of the fortnight, when routine de-worming is needed. With a stable diet and fortnightly de-worming to 3 months of life, the kitten's faeces should be at least toothpaste consistency and formed. It is critically important to follow a routine where **diarrhoea is prevented**.

DIARRHOEA  
CAN KILL KITTENS  
WITHIN 3-5 DAYS!

*Read our Love  
Them for Life  
Guide  
Management of  
Diarrhoea and  
consult your vet*

1. Prevent stress and prevent early removal from mother cat if under 8 weeks, unless the mother cat is a known corona virus or coccidia-infected cat with diarrhoea.
2. De-worm mother cat and keep her faeces healthy and her room and/or enclosure very clean.
3. In pre-weaned kittens without a mother cat to feed from, do not change formula brands and keep both the formula and solid foods stable.
4. Always boil drinking water for kittens under 3 months. Syringe water if kitten is not drinking since dehydration and insufficient food is one cause of diarrhoea.
5. Do not change the kitten's foods from what the previous carer gave. If food change is needed, because it was inadequate or inappropriate, gradually introduce new food over the day of change, plus provide freshly purchased and cooked chicken at the same time.
6. Never give cow's milk or plant-based milks: only give kitten formula or supermarket Whiskas or similar "cat milk" which is low lactose.
7. Never feed foods that have spoiled – refrigerate, warm.
8. Never give raw meat to kittens under 6 months of age.
9. Avoid antibiotics in very young kittens unless it is life-saving or prescribed to treat a specific bacteria-causing diarrhoea.
10. Do not allow kittens to defecate in a tray used by cats other than mother cat or a litter mate. Keep trays clean.
11. Have zero tolerance to fleas and avoid the kittens being bitten by mosquitoes: intestinal parasites (worms) come from bites and cause diarrhoea.
12. Most importantly, implement a timely de-worming schedule: 2-weekly to 12 weeks of age, then monthly to 6 months of age, then quarterly for adult life (see over).



The World League for Protection of Animals Inc  
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AGE	SUGGESTED DE-WORMING PRODUCT
6 weeks	Quarter of a Fenpral. <u>OR</u> Troy Kitten and Puppy Roundworm syrup 2days in a row
8 weeks	Quarter of a Fenpral or other all wormer tablet
10 weeks	1 ml Troy Kitten and Puppy Roundworm Syrup 2 days in a row
12 weeks	Kitten Revolution on the back of the neck (does flea eggs and worms) Or Kitten Advocate which has the same role
16 weeks	All wormer tablet (to continue to target the eradication of tape worm)
20 weeks	Kitten Revolution on the back of the neck (fleas and worms) Or Kitten Advocate which has the same role
24 weeks	Kitten Revolution on the back of the neck (fleas and worms) Or Kitten Advocate which has the same role
6 mths and over	3 monthly for life using Advocate or Revolution with occasional variation to give an oral tablet to ensure tapeworm is addressed

Your obligation when adopting or fostering a WLPAs kitten aged 8 to 12 weeks is to report weekly the consistency of the poo, the body weight per week and the food being given to the kitten for the first month. Your goal is A FAT KITTEN who gains 100 grams of body weight per week and who is flea-free, is eating well and who has formed faeces. This gives the kitten something to fall back on should he or she get an illness or an upset along the way.

If your kitten experiences extremely smelly faeces and diarrhoea, please read our **Love Them for Life Guide on the Management of Diarrhoea** and consult your WLPAs support person, or our vet PetCure 0414 372 281 or your local vet.