The following **kitten growth chart** can help you learn what to expect each week in your kitten’s development. Are you wondering about how fast your kitten is growing? Or do you need to find out your kitten’s age based on his size or behavior?

If you are taking care of orphaned kittens, please refer also to **“Bottle Baby Kittens”** handout

Below you will find out how to gauge her changes and milestones, tips to help you raise her at each growth stage, and info that will let you know what to expect in the weeks ahead.

Kitten Growth Chart

Kitten Growth Chart: Newborn to 4 Weeks

**1 Day Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/1_day_old_kitten.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-1-day-o.jpg)

**Development**

The kittens are born blind, deaf, and unable to regulate body temperature.

The kittens will root towards their mother’s body heat. If it’s an orphaned baby, you will need to provide a heat pad.

They huddle with siblings for warmth.

**Care Guide**

Unless they are orphan kittens, just give mama cat some privacy to do her job–she knows best.

If without a mum, they will need help to eliminate after every bottle feeding session. This will need to continue until they are about 3-4 weeks when a litter tray can be introduced. **Please see care guide for “Bottle Baby Kittens”**

If without mum, they will need help to be burped after ever meal also. **Please see care guide for “Bottle Baby Kitten” Handout**

**5 Day Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-5-day-o.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/1_day_old_kitten.jpg)

**Development**

Ears will open, but they are still deaf. Eyes may begin to open at the inner corners.

Still huddling for warmth, not interactive yet.

For growth, they will be twice their birth weight. We use the guide of a kitten should be putting on 7- 10 grams daily.

**Care Guide**

Mum does most of the work so check in on them regularly to make sure mum is fine to look after them.

This will be the beginning of the socialization process, to help them become good pets!

**10 Day Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/10_day_old_kitten.jpg)**[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-10-day-.jpg)**

**Development**

They will be able to orient to sound, but do not recognize it yet.

Eyes will be fully open between 9 and 14 days.

Not interacting much with siblings, they are still just interested in nursing and staying warm.

**Care Guide**

The kittens’ eyes cannot dilate yet, so make sure to protect them from bright lights.

If mum allows you and isn’t too protective, start to handle them for a minute at a time several times a day–their emotional growth depends on it.

**2 Week Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-2-week-.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2_week_old_kitten.jpg)

**Development**

Still cannot recognize sound, ear canals will open in about a week.

Sense of smell is becoming more developed.

Beginnings of uncoordinated walking and they are becoming more aware of their sibling.

**Care Guide**

The beginning of the true socialization period–Make sure to handle kittens gently and frequently from now on so they will get used to humans.

Kittens that are gently handled 15 to 40 minutes a day during their first seven weeks are more likely to develop larger brains

At this stage, kittens would normally need to be rewormed

**3 Week Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-3-week-.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/3_week_old_kitten.jpg)

**Development**

The kittens’ ear canals have opened and they can recognize sounds.

When the kitten is born, their eye colour is blue. At 3 weeks of age, you will start seeing their eye colour changing

At 3 weeks old, they will now be able to control elimination on their own. They may begin purring to communicate to their mother and siblings

They will start trying to get mobile and be wobbly

It’s almost time to introduce them to the litter box.

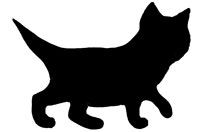
**Care Guide**

Talk to the kittens frequently since they can now hear your voice–and beware of little explorers escaping the nest box!

You can also introduce them to low-level normal household sounds. (*No scary vacuum cleaners nearby yet though!*) The **Sound Proof Puppy App** can start to be used at this age on a low volume

Kitten Growth Chart: 4 Weeks to 1 Year

**4 Week Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/4_week_old_kitten.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-4-week-.jpg)

**Development**

Depth perception is developing, and sense of smell is fully functional.

They are walking with less stumbling.

The growth of baby teeth (deciduous) begins, which means soon the [kittens will be weaned](http://raisinghappykittens.com/?p=287) by their mother.

The kittens begin forming alliances with their litter mates.

Grooming will begin at this age (although still be a bit hit and miss!)

They are beginning to learn social play, and will be pouncing on each other soon! If you have more than one kitten, they will start to learn to “stalk” each other

**Care Guide**

Begin feeding the kitten’s soft, wet food (we recommend Hills Science Diet Kitten)

Or kibble softened with warm water.

Continue to let them nurse in addition until mumma cat decides to wean them.

Start making a low sided litter tray accessible to them. You can introduce this to them by showing it to them and scratching around in it

Make sure you use a natural, [non-toxic and non-clumping](http://raisinghappykittens.com/?p=297) cat litter, since they will want to taste this too!

It’s time to start removing any bits and pieces that can be put in their mouths and any toxic indoor plants

**6 Week Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/6_week_old_kitten.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-6-week-.jpg)

**Development**

Balance is improving!

The kittens’ eyes will settle into their permanent color.

Baby teeth are fully grown, and the kittens can fully regulate their body temperature.

Social play is at a fully rambunctious (*and entertaining*) level. Kitten proofing is a must at this stage.

A variety of kitten enrichment toys such as small scratching posts, jingle balls, wand toys should be provided so that kittens can start utilizing their motor skills

They are nearly fully weaned, although may still continue to suckle.

**Care Guide**

Catch early bad habits in their tracks!

[Training](http://raisinghappykittens.com/?p=221) them now will be easier than if you wait.

You can begin with simple stern “no’s” but don’t expect enough of an attention span for anything more complicated.

**8 Week Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/6_week_old_kitten.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-8-week-.jpg)

**Development**

The kittens are testing the limits of their acrobatic prowess, but they are still accident prone at this growth stage.

The kittens will begin understanding and displaying cat body language, especially during play-fighting.

Mum would’ve fully weaned bubs at this stage so kittens may be socialized enough to be separated from mum.

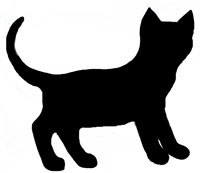
It’s normally at the 7-8 weeks that mum can start getting annoyed at having her babies around, trying to feed off her still! Especially if she has a large litter!

**Care Guide**

Strict supervision will be needed at this age. A covered play pen or dog crate is recommended if you aren’t around to supervise. Kitten proof your home if you haven’t already.

At this stage of kitten growth, you can start being able to see their individual personalities, favorite toys, favorite places, favorite treats...just in time to return back to us at 1 kg!

**10 Week Old Kitten**

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/12_week_old_kitten.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-12-week.jpg)

**Development**

The kittens are really beginning to test their physical limits including jumping from high perches and climbing to amazing heights

They are only about a month away from the growth of their adult teeth

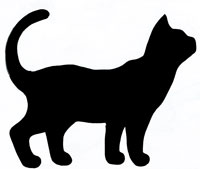
Clawing behavior for scent marking begins during this growth stage.

**Care Guide**

By providing them with a lot of different surfaces to scratch such as carpeted posts, straw posts, cardboard posts, and wooden posts you will be able to work out which surface your kittens prefer.

By working out what material the kitten prefers, they would be more likely to use it….thus avoiding any destruction of furniture!

Twice a day feeds of a good quality kitten wet and dry food to maintain their health and body condition

[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/6_month_old_kitten.jpg)[](http://raisinghappykittens.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/kitten-growth-chart-6-month.jpg)

Please contact us if you have any questions or feel as though there are any abnormalities with your kittens.

Keep in mind that each kitten is an individual and may grow at different rates. These are just guidelines to help you work out what stage your bubs are at