

Fading Kitten Protocol

Symptoms

- Low body temperature; the kitten feels cool or cold to the touch.
- Extreme lethargy; not getting up, unable to stand, not responding when touched, can't hold its head up
- Low blood sugar
- Lack of weight gain
- Gasping for breath; mouth-breathing
- Meowing, crying out

Take immediate action and do not deviate from these instructions.

NOTE: Fading episodes can take minutes or hours; there is no way to determine how long it will take for a kitten to become responsive.

FIRST - BODY HEAT

1. Immediately burrito-wrap the kitten leaving only the face-eyes, nose, and mouth-exposed. **Do not take the kitten out of the towel to adjust them or check on them.** Every time you take them out you will make them cold again, even if it is only for a second.
2. Wrap a heating pad set on low around the burrito towel (to avoid burns.) Secure it around the towel so it stays in place.

SECOND- BLOOD SUGAR

1. Put sugar or Karo Syrup in warm water, 50/50. Put some in a syringe and give the kitten one drop every three minutes. **SET YOUR TIMER!**
2. If the kitten is not swallowing, rub some Karo or sugar-water on its gums and tongue.
3. Take care not to contaminate anything by double dipping syringes.

THIRD - Alert Vetting Team

- Alert Vetting Staff that the kitten is fading.
- If the kitten passes, alert the Foster Medical Manager

Please reach out to your Foster Medical Manager and vetting@ruffstartrescue.org for immediate assistance. Avoid posting to the facebook groups when possible.

It may seem like you are not doing enough to help the kitten, but this is the most important treatment for a fading kitten. If the above steps are followed, we generally have success with these kittens. Keep in mind that it can sometimes take hours for them to come out of it and start acting normal again. Know that even with love, attention, and the perfect treatment, some fading kittens still won't make it.