I Found a Kitten Outside! Should I Bring Her Into My **CASA**?

Before picking up a kitten, assess the scenario using the CASA method.
Consider the following 4 factors: **C**ondition, **A**ge, **S**ituation, and **A**bilities.

CONDITION

If a kitten is in good condition, she has likely been cared for by her mother recently.

GOOD CONDITION

- Clean and alert
- Chunky and well-fed
- Not in distress

Mom is likely right around the corner!
Try your best to reunite if unweaned.

BAD CONDITION

- Dirty or covered in waste
- Visibly underweight
- In distress or medical crisis

These kittens may truly be orphaned, and need swift intervention!

AGE

A kitten's age will help you determine the right course of action.

0-5 WEEKS

- Uncoordinated
- Closed or baby blue eyes
- Unweaned; dependent on nursing

These kittens should be kept with mom, either by trapping the family for foster care or by leaving with mom until weaned.

5-12 WEEKS

- Playful and coordinated
- Able to walk and run
- Eating food independently

These kittens are within the socialization window, and are an ideal age to take in and socialize for adoption.

12+ WEEKS

- Typically 3+ pounds
- No longer nursing
- Proportionate or lanky body

If feral, these kittens will be more difficult to socialize, and they may have the best outcome if sterilized and returned to the colony.

SITUATION

Every situation will be different, and it's up to you to use your best judgment about when and how to intervene.

SAFE SITUATION

- Mother is present
- Caregiver is present
- Family has food and shelter

UNSAFE SITUATION

- No one is caring for the kitten
- Kitten is exposed to extreme weather or hazards

ABILITY

Your abilities and access to community resources will factor into how you respond. Give the kitten the most positive outcome possible, while working within your means and capacity.

ASK YOURSELF

- Are you or someone you know able to provide foster care?
- Does your local shelter have a lifesaving program that can help?
- Can you access sterilization services for the family?

Remember that no two scenarios are alike, and there are numerous lifesaving pathways depending on the kitten's condition, age, situation, and the abilities and resources at your disposal.

AND DON'T FORGET: Wherever there are kittens, *there are cats!*
Always work to sterilize the local community cats in order to prevent future births.

KITTEN LADY

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To learn more about kitten care visit **kittenlady.org**.
To watch videos on kitten care and more visit **youtube.com/kittenlady**.