

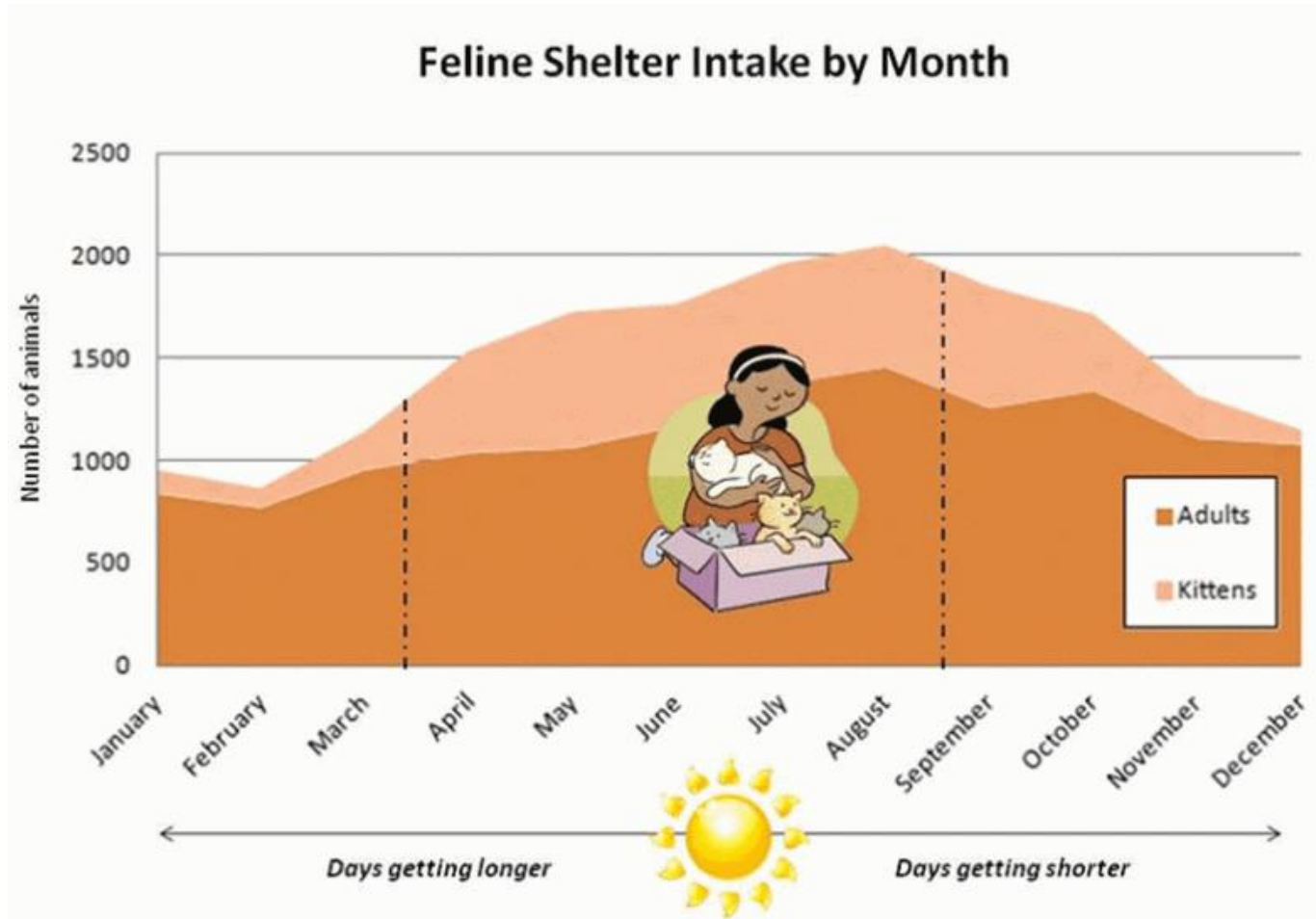


MICHIGAN HUMANE IN HOME HEROES

Kitten Foster Training Spring 2021

Dr. Clarissa Funke





Why?

- Orphans
- Preventing Mt. Kitten!
- Can place a strain on the entire system
- Kittens have different needs than adult animals

<https://www.aspcapro.org/blog/2017/05/05/how-survive-kitten-season-year-part-1>



MH Foster Program

- Shelter responsibility:
 - *Medical care*
 - *Supplies*
 - *Training/support*
- Foster responsibility:
 - *Provide a safe place to grow*
 - *Be attentive to their needs*
 - *Be available for appointments*





MH Foster Program

- Interested?
 - Visit michiganhumane.org/foster
- Locations in Detroit, Rochester and Westland
 - Care can be transferred between locations
- Getting new fosters
 - Foster on deck survey
 - Daily email list





ORPHANED KITTEN CARE



Development Classification



Bottles: 0-5 weeks

Unable to eat solids,
need stimulation to
go potty and need a
heat source



Gerbers: 3-6 weeks

Transitional in eating,
litterbox and mobility.
Variable in
independence.



Graduates: 5-8 weeks

Eat normal kitten food
without assistance,
independent in most
ways



Bottle Kittens

Pros:

- Small space requirement
- Portable
- Clean
- Cute

Cons:

- Frequency of feedings
- More frequent vet checks
- Higher mortality rate





Bottle Kittens

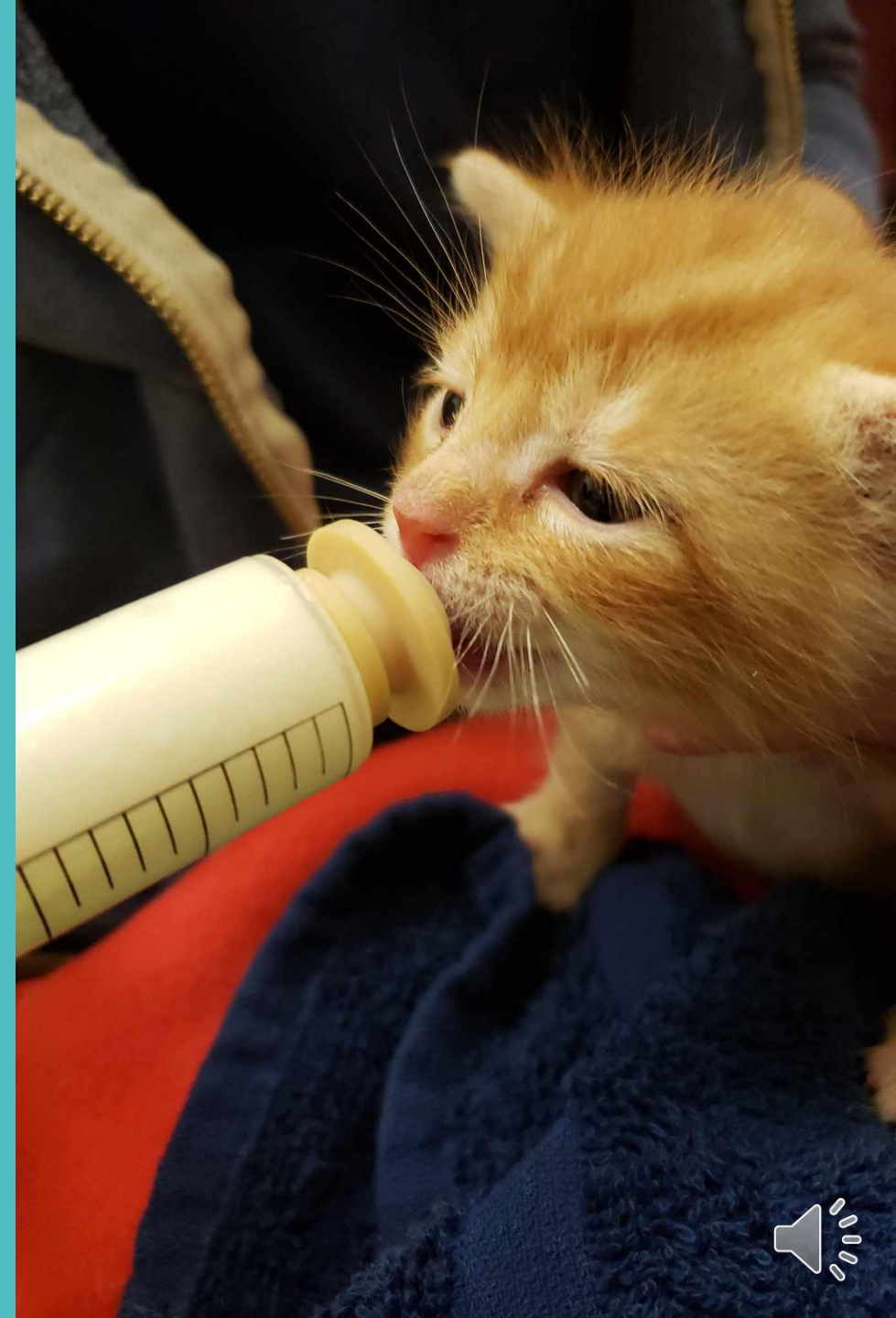
Care Routine:

- Weight
- Potty
- Feed
- Record Keeping
- Check heat source



Bottle Kittens: Feeding

- Formula Storage
- Formula Prep
- Position
- Latch
- Newbies vs. Pros







Bottle Kitten Care

- Potty Time
 - *Use tissues, cotton balls, toilet paper*
 - *Gently rub the genitals*
 - *Normal vs abnormal*
- Monitoring weight
 - *Should gain between 10-15 grams/day*
- Heat source
 - *Warming disc*
 - *Fluid bag*



Gerber Kittens

Pros:

- No nighttime feedings
- More playful
- Improving mortality rate

Cons:

- Messy!
- Need a bigger space





Gerber Kittens: Housing

- Guinea pig cages are ideal
- Dog crate or pop-up play yard are other options
- Low sided food bowls, litterbox for easy access
- Pelleted litter



Gerber Kittens: Feeding

- All kittens are unique
- Gruel
 - *Mixture of canned food and formula or water*
 - *May eat independently, need hand or syringe feeding*
 - *Change frequently or don't leave out*
 - *May require bathing after*





Gerber Kittens: Bathing



- Dawn dish soap or baby shampoo
- Shallow
- Hand clean face with damp rag
- Carefully dry with towel or hairdryer
- Ensure heat source provided after



Graduate Kittens

Pros:

- Independent
- Fun
- Lowest mortality rate

Cons:

- Largest space requirement
- Crazy
- Messy (sometimes)



Graduate Kittens

- Housing
 - *Will do best with a devoted room or larger space to play in*
 - *Should be “kitten proofed”*
 - *Separate areas for litter, food, water*
- Socialization is important at this age
- Still monitor for decreased appetite, weight loss, health problems etc.



Kitten Health Problems

Be Proactive!!!

Monitor for:

- Decrease appetite
- Weight loss
- Diarrhea/vomiting
- Constipation
- Upper respiratory infections
- Conjunctivitis
- Littermate suckling
- Hair loss



Kitten Health: Wellness Schedule

- Foster is responsible for scheduling wellness exams
- Appointments every 2 weeks
- Monitor weight
- Dewormers (2 weeks and up)
- Vaccines (4 weeks and up)
- Return to shelter for surgery and adoption at 8 weeks



Saying Goodbye

- Saying goodbye is always the goal
- Goodbye should be a celebration: you have successfully saved a life!
- Fostering is about supporting animals through their most vulnerable time
- If we keep them, we can't help the next one

