Starting a Kitten Nursery

April Harris
Where to Start?

1. Determine need
2. Determine logistics
3. Determine cost
4. Develop procedures
5. Recruit help
6. Recruit support
7. Collect data
8. Analyze data
9. Revise and refine
Assess Your Need

SLCoAS

Cat Intake
Kitten Intake

LAAS

Cat Intake
Kitten Intake
Ask Yourself

Who...
- Your Organization
- Partner Organization
- Partnership – two or more organizations contributing resources

What...
- Age of kittens
- Moms with babies of what age
- Pregnant queens
- Strays
- Owner Surrenders
- Transfers

When...
- Year Round
- Seasonally
- 9am–5pm
- 24 Hour Care

Where...
- Onsite within current structure
- Onsite alternative structure
- Offsite
- Foster based
- Combination

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# The Kitten Calculator

Use historical numbers and/or goals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mar (5%)</th>
<th>Apr (8%)</th>
<th>May (15%)</th>
<th>Jun (16%)</th>
<th>Jul (20%)</th>
<th>Aug (14%)</th>
<th>Sep (13%)</th>
<th>Oct (8%)</th>
<th>Annual Total</th>
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<td>Intake</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>199</td>
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<td>Still in Care (35%)</td>
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<td>33</td>
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<td>Foster (22%)</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>18</td>
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<td>Transfers (25%)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>Euthanasia (10%)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Died in Care (8%)</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>80</td>
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<td>LOS</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>35</td>
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<td>Animal Care Days</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>658</td>
<td>1499</td>
<td>2318</td>
<td>6965</td>
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<td>Req Capacity</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>691</td>
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<td>Revenue ($35)</td>
<td>$938</td>
<td>$1,875</td>
<td>$2,933</td>
<td>$3,212</td>
<td>$3,970</td>
<td>$2,833</td>
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<td>$1,974</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
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You can work either direction
Develop Procedures
(avoid a lot of unnecessary stress)

• Whiteboard it out
• Policies
• Staff schedule & responsibilities
• Volunteer schedule
• Medical care
• Medical emergencies
• Outbreak of illness
• The not-so-friendly
• Vaccination & S/N
• Death
Recruiting Volunteers & Fosters

- Captive Audience
- Convert inexperienced adopters
- Social Media
- Existing volunteers
- Foster Orientations
- Volunteer Orientations
- Set Shifts & Duties
Throw a Kitten Shower

Adopt & Shop Kitten Foster Project
Kitten Foster Project Wishlist

About: The Adopt & Shop Kitten Foster Project was launched in 2014 as a means of reducing underage kitten euthanasia in shelters. All Wishlist donations will be used by our foster parents to shower their kittens with love and affection until they are old enough to be adopted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Has</th>
<th>Priority</th>
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<td>$25.00</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>$10.40</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<td>Desckcowl (Petmate) CDS22000 Kitten Litter Pan, Small, Assorted Color Offered by Ablackhorse</td>
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<td>Slumber Pet Sherpa Dog Crate Bed, X-Small, Baby Pink</td>
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</table>

The Kittens Are Here!

If you'd like to donate supplies, check out our Amazon Wish List:

Found Animals
adopt & shop
KITTEN FOSTER PROJECT

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Must Haves....

- Foster Manual
- Operations Manual
- Foster Base
- Volunteer Base
- Supplies >30 days
- After Hours Plan
- Volunteers Call-Out Plan
Getting Buy-In

- Create a measurement of success
  - LRR
  - # of lives saved
  - # fewer euths
- Small Pilot Program
  - >4 weeks of age
- Set a cost per life saved and stick to it
- Reallocate resources and funding
- Extend your resources by finding partners
Data Collection

- Intake stats
- Outcome stats
- LOS pre-foster
- LOS post-foster
- LOS total
- LOS by transfer partner
- Onset of illness

- LOS at onset of illness
- Onset of illness based on transfer partner
- LRR
- LRR for <4 weeks
- LRR for >4 weeks
- Individual foster stats

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Impound #</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Exact Age</th>
<th>Age Category</th>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Dewormer</th>
<th>Panacur</th>
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<tr>
<td>A521489</td>
<td>(magenta / Iron Man)</td>
<td>dish black</td>
<td>4 weeks</td>
<td>kitten</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Strongid 6/10</td>
<td>6/11-6/12</td>
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<td>14-25077</td>
<td>Panda</td>
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<td>kitten</td>
<td>M</td>
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<tr>
<td>A22535743</td>
<td>Yeller</td>
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<td>6-7 weeks</td>
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<td>M</td>
<td>Pyrantel 4/30 &amp; 5/14</td>
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<tr>
<td>A22535749</td>
<td>Yuri</td>
<td>dish black/white</td>
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<td>M</td>
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<tr>
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<td>dish tortie</td>
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<td>A22617131</td>
<td>Gershwin / Pickles</td>
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<td>A22616877</td>
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<td>A22617152</td>
<td>Gabe / Simba</td>
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<td>Strongid 5/31 &amp; Dro</td>
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<td>14-26458</td>
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<td>dish lynx point</td>
<td>8 weeks</td>
<td>kitten</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Strongid 5/31 &amp; Dro</td>
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</table>
Keep in Mind

• It’s okay to start slow
• Recruit early
• …but not too early
• Recruit more than once
• Set realistic expectations with volunteers
• Set realistic expectations with fosters
• Use down time to analyze data and refine/revise
• Don’t be afraid to make changes early on
• A Foster Manual and Operations Manual are a MUST!
The Kitten Foster Project

Who…

Found Animals Foundation

What…

Kittens over 4 weeks of age
Kittens must be eating on their own
Queens with any age kittens
Transfers

When…

Year Round
8:30am – 6:30pm

Where…

Adopt & Shop Culver City
Fosters
Combination
The Kitten Foster Project

- ~1500 sqft
- ~68 Capacity
- Isolation = Ringworm
- No clinic on-site
- Contract Vets on-site 2X per week
- Contract Vets for medical emergencies
- Transfer in from 5 partners
- All kittens go to A&S for adoption
- ~$243 per life saved
The Kitten Foster Project

KFP Manager
F/T Salaried

KFP Coordinator
F/T Hourly

KFP Assistant
F/T Hourly

Kennel Assistant
P/T Temp
The Kitten Foster Project

Bottle Neck in FY2014 so very few kittens were pulled in June

698 Lives Saved

>1000 Lives Saved
The Kitten Foster Project

**Successes**
- Location
- Layout
- Volunteer base
- Foster base
- Learned quickly
- Treatment protocol
- Capacity
- LRR
- Volunteer training process
- Procedures
- Multiple transfer partners

**Challenges**
- Hierarchy
- Emergency medical costs
- Isolation area
- Reaction to death
- Transport
- A&S Capacity
- Supply costs
- Ringworm
- Maximizing lives saved
- The bell curve
Salt Lake County Animal Services

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who...</th>
<th>What...</th>
<th>When...</th>
<th>Where...</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLCoAS</td>
<td>All kittens coming into shelter</td>
<td>Seasonal March - October</td>
<td>Onsite trailer</td>
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<tr>
<td>BFAS - UT</td>
<td>Queens with any age kittens</td>
<td>24 Hours</td>
<td>Fosters</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Transfers (depending on space)</td>
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Salt Lake County Animal Services

- ~800 sqft
- ~99 Capacity
- Full service clinic in shelter
- Shelter vet on-call for emergencies

- Kittens can go to rescue at any time
- Kittens go to BFASUT Adoption Center or in shelter for adoption
- ~$118 per life saved
Salt Lake County Animal Services

Rescue & Foster Coordinator
25% of time

Nursery Coordinator
F/T Hourly

Nursery Coordinator
P/T Hourly
Salt Lake County Animal Services

508 Lives Saved

Kitten Rates

- Live Release Rate
- Deceased Rate
- Missing Outcome Information Rate

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Salt Lake County Animal Services

**Successes**

- Onsite Trailer
  - Kittens never entered shelter
  - Officers could drop at trailer
  - Separate room for feral moms
- Partnership resources
- Rotating on-call schedule
- Staff on-site to oversee bottle baby feedings
- Euthanasia services on-site
- Full service clinic on-site

**Challenges**

- After hours access for volunteers
- Staff coverage
- Keeping shelter staff out of the trailer
- Capacity in July
- Difficult to track expenses
- Laundry
- Changes too early on
Additional Resources

- [www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org) – Bottlekatz
- [www.aspcaapro.org](http://www.aspcaapro.org) – Nursery
- [American Pets Alive No-Kill Handbook](http://americanpetsalive.org/no-kill-handbook)
- Each other!
TGIO!
Questions?

April Harris
a.harris@foundanimals.org
https://calendly.com/a-harris/kitten

Follow Found Animals!

Find the kitten who has ADD