I found kittens! What should I do?

Yes — **Are the kittens visibly injured or hurt?** — **No**

Take the kittens to your local vet as soon as possible

Estimate the age of the kittens, based on the way they look

Under 4 weeks old

Newborn kittens have closed eyes, folded ears and unable to stand. In 10 days, their eyes open, their ears stand up, and they start to move, but they are wobbly. After week 3, they start playing and are more alert.

Over 4 weeks old

No longer wobbly when walking. Pouncing and playing with siblings. Eyes begin to change from blue/grey to their adult colour. Baby teeth are fully erupted.

Over 8 weeks old

The kittens are fully weaned. They are more skilled and adventurous. They are ready to be desexed. Follow our guide **What to do if you find a cat**

Can you see their nest or hiding place?

Yes
Gently return the kittens to their nest.

No
Ensure the kittens are somewhere safe and warm, and watch from a distance.

Does the mother cat return to care for the kittens?*

Yes
Leave the kittens where they are and follow our guide **What to do if you find a cat**

No
*An anxious mother cat may not return if you are present. Circle the kittens with flour and check back for mum's footprints.

Are you willing to take responsibility for the kittens?

Yes
Excellent! Contact your local vet for instructions on how to care for the kittens and provide them with everything they need. **Read more here**. **Never feed kittens cow's milk, as kittens need special formula.**

No
If you cannot keep the kittens or find them another home, consider surrendering them to a reputable rescue group or shelter. If you can, foster the kittens while waiting, as these groups are often overrun with cats and kittens.

Visit our website for more information, encouragement, inspiration, and to sign up to our community of cat lovers keeping their cats safe at home.

rspcansw.org.au/keeping-cats-safe

RSPCA New South Wales

NSW GOVERNMENT