



# How do I know if a kitten is in distress?

So you've found a kitten—or maybe a whole litter. **PAUSE** and assess the situation!

1

**Are the kittens in immediate danger (like in a road or near heavy equipment)?**

If so, carefully move them to a nearby safe spot.

2

**Are the kittens in distress, dirty, visibly injured, or sick?** If so, immediately call 828-250-6430 during hours. **If the kittens seem healthy and happy, leave them alone!** Kittens are happiest and safest with their mom in an environment that is comfortable for her. Contact the Buncombe County Animal Shelter to file a found report and for supplies, support, and other resources.

3

**Is mom in the area?** If so, she's taking care of her babies—and that's the best-case scenario! You can still help by offering food, water, and shelter nearby, and contact us to file a found report and for supplies, support, and other resources. If mom is not in the area, please refer to step #4.

4

Mother cats will leave for 2-3 hours to hunt. **If mom is not in the area or has not returned after 3 hours, call us at 828-250-6430 for assistance with caring for abandoned kittens or visit our website for advice!**

They have an angular or triangular face

They are desperately screaming, not a regular kitten mew

They have matted or crusty eyes

They are cold to the touch

Their fur is matted or dirty



[ashevillehumane.org/get-help/found-a-stray/found-kittens](https://ashevillehumane.org/get-help/found-a-stray/found-kittens)