It’s springtime and the beginning of “kitten season” – the time of year when many unaltered cats breed and give birth. These cats and kittens primarily live outdoors as feral, semi-socialized, or stray cats. In consideration of COVID-19 social distancing measures, what should you do if you find a litter of kittens or pregnant mom cat outside?

**LOOK FOR THE OWNER**
Always keep in mind that a pregnant cat or cat with kittens, whether feral or socialized, may already be someone’s pet and being cared for appropriately. If you believe it is a case of neglect, contact Animal Control.

**OBSERVE FROM AFAR**
A kitten’s best chance of survival is in their mother’s care. Don’t disturb the nest unless absolutely necessary! Most feral mothers will not care for the kittens after human scent is detected.

Kittens showing signs of poor health or in danger (ie: injured, crying excessively, matted or dirty fur, too skinny, very lethargic, or vulnerable to predators) should be rescued. Call us for guidance.

**GIVE THEM SPACE**
If there is no obvious sign of injury or distress, leave the nest and check again later. Mother is likely taking good care of them and will return.

If you do not see mom over the course of a few days, call us for guidance.

**SUPPORT FROM AFAR**
If mom returns, you may continue to monitor the situation and help support her by putting out fresh cat food and water each day. Intervention may be necessary if kittens or mom become injured or ill.

**WHEN THEY ARE OLDER**
After about 3 months, kittens being cared for by their mom can be collected and may do well in our adoption program. Call us for more guidance at that time.

**BE AN UNOFFICIAL FOSTER**
Due to COVID-19, we are currently unable to accept non-emergency surrenders. If you find a healthy kitten, litter of kittens, or friendly nursing mom, we can provide guidance and support to care for them in your own home.

Contact us for more information. Thank you!
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