



Survivor Squad 2021

Manual for Kitten Foster Volunteers



San Jose Animal Care Center

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For questions about the foster program, your kitten, donations, or medical concerns, contact the SJACC foster staff: sjkitten@sanjoseca.gov or (408) 398-7859

In the event of an emergency, call 408-643-4405 (M-F) or 408-464-1312 (Sat, Sun)



A digital copy of this manual is available at www.kittensfirst.org

Instructional videos are on the Kittens First YouTube channel here:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzCh487fHJ4LIL7JuGOIBaw>

Welcome to the Survivor Squad!

The Survivor Squad is a medical foster program which treats kittens that have panleukopenia, a deadly virus of cats and kittens. Kittens with panleukopenia have weight loss, poor appetite, vomiting, dehydration, and can have severe secondary infections such as sepsis and pneumonia.

This is our most advanced medical squad, as it tackles the most challenging cases. As a result, you MUST have passed levels 1-3 and the Squirt Squad prior to taking this course. You also must be comfortable with giving injections and fluids.

Disclaimer

There is no treatment for panleukopenia apart from supportive care. Usually, kittens with panleukopenia are hospitalized and the vet bill can be \$5,000-10,000. Even with advanced medical intervention, many kittens do not recover.

Because panleukopenia has a guarded prognosis, is highly contagious to other cats, and hospitalization is very expensive, many pet owners, shelters, and rescue groups do not have the ability to treat these cases. We are extremely lucky at the San Jose Animal Care Center to have a treatment protocol that is inexpensive, and in 2020 had a ~66% survival rate.

If, after 72 hours of treatment, the kitten is not improving, they will likely require care that is beyond what our program is capable of providing. At this point, our veterinarians will recommend humane euthanasia; however, you may choose to adopt and seek care at your own expense.

Caring for kittens that may pass away or require euthanasia can be heartbreaking. Panleukopenia fostering is NOT for everyone and it is OK if you don't want to foster critically ill kittens.

Learning objectives

After reading this manual and reviewing videos online, volunteers should know:

- What causes panleukopenia
- The effects of panleukopenia
- Prognosis for kittens with panleukopenia
- How to treat panleukopenia, including:
 - How to bathe poopy kittens
 - How to give oral medications
 - How to give fluids and injections
- How to monitor treatment progress
 - How to monitor fecal score
 - How to identify signs of pain and nausea
- When to schedule a follow-up visit
- How to isolate sick kittens
- How to disinfect enclosures

What causes panleukopenia

Panleukopenia, also known as feline parvovirus or feline distemper, is a highly contagious virus of cats and kittens. Panleukopenia virus is spread through feces and can live in the environment for years. Because cats cover (or walk through) their feces when using the litter box, virus particles end up on their paws. Anywhere that a cat has put their paws, e.g., their cage, clothing, the room, blankets, toys, etc. can hold virus particles. Cats then lick their paws while grooming, and thus become infected.

Panleukopenia is part of the core FVRCP vaccine that all cats and kittens should get, as this vaccine is highly effective at preventing disease.

Effects of panleukopenia

Panleukopenia, also known as feline parvo or feline distemper, is a serious, contagious viral disease of cats. Panleukopenia attacks rapidly dividing cells in kittens, particularly the intestines, bone marrow, and brain. This leads to predictable signs of panleukopenia in the digestive and immune systems, including vomiting, diarrhea, dehydration, lethargy, weakness, fever, and weight loss.

Due to bone marrow infection, kittens are more susceptible to other bacterial infections, such as pneumonia and abscesses. Sometimes, kittens will unexpectedly die due to sudden, overwhelming infection.

1. Severe diarrhea and vomiting

Damage to the intestinal lining leads to severe, liquid diarrhea and vomiting. As with kittens with diarrhea due to other causes, this leads to dehydration, indigestion, pain, nausea, lethargy and weight loss.

2. Bone marrow infection

Infection of the bone marrow leads to decreased white blood cell production. A healthy kitten's immune system has white blood cells which fight off bacteria and other infections that a kitten faces every day.

A kitten with panleukopenia has a poor or no active immune system, meaning they cannot fight off basic infections. This can lead to secondary bacterial infections, such as pneumonia. This is due to sepsis, a potentially fatal bloodstream infection that spreads bacteria through the body and can lead to death.

Panleukopenia treatment

The nursing of panleukopenia cases is very similar to kittens with other types of diarrhea, including keeping them warm, feeding support, fluids, medications, and careful monitoring. Treatment usually lasts 5-7 days, but can extend for up to 14 days.

The first 72 hours are the most critical. You should expect to give treatments 3 times a day for 72 hours at a minimum. If the kitten responds to the protocol in the first 72 hours, then treatment intensity will decrease over the next week or until the kitten appears normal.

1. Feeding support

Feeding your kittens, even when they seem reluctant to eat, is one of the most important things you can do to help your kitten survive. Not eating leads to further damage to the gut. Coax your kitten to eat by trying a variety of feeding techniques, (like syringe or gruel, heating, etc.), and providing different food types which have been approved by staff. It doesn't matter what, so long as the kitten eats something!

If kittens aren't eating well, you can also offer a "kitty buffet" by giving them a selection of 2-3 wet and 2-3 dry foods to find something that they like

- a. Offer a spoonful of:
 - i. Fancy Feast wet (Turkey or Chicken)
 - ii. Royal Canin Mother & Baby Cat wet
 - iii. Hill's a/d or other speciality food provided by shelter staff
- b. Offer a tablespoon of:
 - i. Royal Canin Baby Cat dry food
 - ii. Purina Kitten Chow dry food
 - iii. Meow Mix Kitten dry food

Use the same guidelines in the regular manual for ways to offer wet food:

- c. Heat in microwave
- d. Fluff or give as slabs
- e. Push to edge of plate
- f. Spoon or finger feed
- g. Make gruel with water or formula
- h. Syringe feed

If kittens won't eat one of the regular diets, try Critical Care Carnivore (see below)

Critical Care Carnivore

There are several high-quality liquid diets for adult cats/kittens that are normally used for tube feeding during hospitalization at the vet. These powders are stored in the freezer and mixed up for each feeding, just like KMR. Follow the instructions on the packet.

The mixture is often too thick to be drawn up in a syringe. Take the plunger out of the syringe and then fill the syringe with a spoon. You'll make a big mess stuffing the diet in there at first,

but you'll get better at it. Put the plunger back in, careful not to push in too much air. Draw back on the syringe, tap it a few times to make air rise to the top, and then push the plunger to expel the excess air.

The great thing about Critical Care and other liquid diets is that they are very calorie-dense. You do not have to give much to give a kitten their full daily nutrition. This means that weigh-feed-weigh will not apply, since the weight they will gain at each feeding from the food itself will be low.

See instructional videos on YouTube for examples of syringe feeding

2. Oral medications

Your kitten may be prescribed multiple oral medications, likely:

- **Metronidazole:** an anti-inflammatory, antibiotic, and treatment for Giardia
 - Keep refrigerated, shake well
- **Entyce:** an appetite stimulant

Give oral medications as per usual, and administer them as directed on the label.

Whenever giving any antibiotic, be sure to:

1. Store in refrigerator
2. Shake bottle well before giving
3. Give a meal or snack before giving medication
4. Complete the entire course of medication - even if kitty seems better - unless instructed to do otherwise

To administer oral medication, use the following technique:

1. Draw up medication in a clean syringe
2. Wrap kitten in a towel and/or hold securely so you can control their head
3. Put the syringe into the side of the mouth where there are no teeth, and then point the syringe towards the back of the mouth
4. Gently and steadily depress the plunger until kitten has received the full dose
5. Wash the dirty syringe
 - a. Pull apart the syringe plunger and tube
 - b. Wash each piece with soap and warm water
 - c. Rinse and dry before putting back together
 - d. Reuse syringes until the plunger starts to be hard to push
 - e. Do not reuse syringes between litters

See instructional video on YouTube for examples of administering oral meds

3. Injectable medications and fluids

Your kitten will be prescribed anti-nausea medication, vitamins, and antibiotic shots to be given under the skin, likely:

- Cefazolin, an antibiotic
 - Keep refrigerated, shake well
- Baytril, an antibiotic
 - Protect from light
- Cerenia, an antinausea
 - Protect from light
- B12, a vitamin
 - Protect from light
- Ondansetron, an anti nausea medication
- Metoclopramide, an anti nausea medication

Because of the number of medications, some concurrent, and the need to keep some medications in the refrigerator, you will need to use some advanced techniques for handling the medicines. We do not recommend that you inject each medication individually. This will be painful for you AND the kitten! We recommend giving medications by one of the following methods:

Method 1: Combine in fluids (3+ meds)

Works best for jumpy kittens that are hard to inject

1. Get all injectable medications out of the fridge, shake well, etc.
2. Use a 1 mL syringe with needle to draw up the medication
 - a. Take care to remember which syringe is which medication and which dose belongs to which kitten
3. Put on gloves
4. Take all items into the room/space where the kittens are
5. Draw up fluids (SQF) into large (20-60 mL) syringes
6. Remove larger needle and inject medications directly into the fluid syringe
 - a. Invert gently to mix -- if the mixture turns cloudy or grey, the drugs have clumped (precipitated) and you need to start over.
7. Attach butterfly needle
8. Give fluid and medications to kitten in the scruff, as usual

Method 2: Give into butterfly catheter (1-2 meds)

This method only works on compliant kittens that won't move too much

1. Get all injectable medications out of the fridge, shake well, etc.
2. Use a 1 mL syringe with needle to draw up the medication
 - a. Take care to remember which syringe is which medication and which dose belongs to which kitten

3. Put on gloves
4. Take all items into the room/space where the kittens are
5. Draw up fluids into large (20-60 mL) syringes
6. Attach butterfly needle
7. Give fluid to kitten in the scruff the same as normal, reserving 10-20% of the volume
8. Unscrew the butterfly catheter
9. Remove needles from 1 mL syringes that have injectable medication
10. Insert medication syringe into butterfly catheter and inject
11. Reattach fluid line and inject a few mL to push medications out of the line and into the kitten
12. Repeat as needed to inject each medication
13. Finish by giving the rest of the fluids

Helpful hacks

- **Hack 1:** If all kittens have the same dose for the same medication, e.g., you have two kittens with a dose of 0.1 mL per kitten, you can draw up 0.2 mL in one syringe
 - If this is an oral medication, you can use dexterity to give half the amount in each kitten's mouth
 - Even if the amount is different, e.g., 0.1 mL and 0.2 mL, you can draw up 0.3 in one syringe and then put 0.1 mL into one fluid syringe and 0.2 mL into the other fluid syringe.
- **Hack 2:** If all kittens have the same dose for medications AND around the same fluid doses, you can make one mega syringe, e.g., if 3 kittens need 20 mL each and the medication is 0.1 mL per kitten, you can mix together 0.3 mL of medication with 60 mL of fluids and give each kitten 20 mL.
 - This is not totally precise, but is a huge time saver!
 - If one kitten needs a bit more fluids, you can give them a separate injection of just fluids without medication
- **Hack 3:** Use small plastic trays, tupperware, or draw organizers for each kitten to keep their medications separate

4. Fluids

You may be prescribed subcutaneous fluids (SQF) to be given every 8 hours for the first 72 hours, then will taper to every 12 or 24 hours as prescribed.

To administer subcutaneous fluids, use the following technique:

1. Draw up prescribed dose of fluids in a sterile syringe using an 18 or 20G needle
2. Change needle to a 23 or 25G butterfly catheter (needle with tubing)
3. Put your kitten in their carrier or on the ground in an enclosed space
4. Tent the scruff of the kitten with your non-dominant hand
 - a. Be prepared to grab the kitten and prevent them from jumping and hurting themselves, but you do not need to hold them tight
5. Insert the butterfly catheter into tented skin
6. Drop the tented scruff and pet the kitten's head

7. Inject the fluids slowly at first by pressing on the plunger
 - a. If you see fluids leaking out, you probably went out the other side. Pull the needle back slightly until it is in the “tenting area”
 - b. If your needle comes completely out, re-tent the kitten’s neck scruff and start again. You can use your needle for 3 pokes before it’ll become too dull to use. Change your needle if you miss 3 times before trying again
 - c. If the kitten reacts, stop and pet them, allow them to relax, then continue administering
8. After the first 1-2 mL has been injected, you can inject the remaining volume more quickly.
9. Continue to pet the kitten throughout the process
10. Once all fluids have been administered, pull out the needle
11. Dispose of needle in your sharps container
12. Pet the kitten, play, and/or give yummy treats as a reward

See instructional videos on YouTube for examples of giving subcutaneous fluids

5. Probiotics

Probiotics help restore the gut’s normal bacteria for healthy digestion. Depending on how old a kitten is, there are different normal bacteria that need to be in the gut. Give whichever probiotic is prescribed to you by staff:

- **Benebac or Fox Valley:** This gel or powder is used for unweaned/nursing kittens. The gel can be given as a squirt in the mouth around mealtime. The powder can be dissolved in a milk replacer.
- **Fortiflora:** This chicken-flavored powder is used for weaned kittens. Because it has a strong flavor -- *Some kittens hate it. If they hate it and will not eat it then do not give it! It is more important that they eat their food!*

6. Butt baths -- only after 72 hours

Chilling can be extremely dangerous, even fatal to panleukopenia kittens. Do NOT try and bathe your kittens until they have left the “danger zone” of the first 72 hours.

Plan your treatment

Because panleukopenia is very contagious, you must be very careful not to contaminate your home during treatment time or handling. Below is a good routine to minimize contamination of the home during treatment time.

1. Before treatment, have a clean, flat work surface ready , e.g., metal tabletop, bathroom counter to place medications
2. Put up your hair, put on “panleuk clothes” (ideally short-sleeved and easily washable)
3. Prepare wet food or gruel, kibble, and water in clean dishes

- a. Include syringes if you are syringe feeding
4. Prepare oral medications in fresh syringes
5. Prepare injectable medications
 - a. Use a syringe with needle to withdraw the medication, inject the medication into the larger fluid syringe, and then put syringe with needle back into medication bottle
6. Prepare wet wipes, washcloths, eye meds, or other items you will need
7. Put on gloves
8. Take all items into the room/space where the kittens are
9. Draw up fluids into large (20-60 mL) syringes
 - a. Injectable medications can be added directly into the fluid syringe
 - b. Invert gently to mix
 - c. Attach butterfly needle
10. Group items based on kitten, i.e., put all syringes for one kitten in one spot/container
11. Open enclosure doors/zipped tops, have trash receptacle ready, lights on, etc.
12. Clean cage, dump litter box, change bedding, etc.
13. Replace food and water dishes with clean ones
14. Syringe feed or allow kittens to eat before treatments
15. Give fluids and injectable medications
 - a. Throw out oral syringes after each use to avoid washing dirty syringes in your kitchen sink. If your kittens are in a bathroom, then you can wash and reuse oral syringes using the bathroom sink.
16. Give oral medications
17. Change gloves
18. Clean and disinfect what was contaminated by your dirty gloves or kittens AND that is leaving the kitten area, for example:
 - a. If you touched your cell phone
 - b. Medication bottles
 - c. Food and water dishes
 - d. Pens/pencils
19. Remove gloves
20. Change clothes if they were contaminated
 - a. If your clothes were touched by kittens or poop, put them into a plastic bag for a load of contaminated laundry, to be washed separately from household laundry
 - b. If your clothes stayed clean, then it is best practice to bag them and reuse them for next treatment time
21. Wash hands and arms with soap and water
 - a. If you touched your face, neck, or hair with dirty gloves or if kittens tried to give you kisses--also wash the parts of your body that were contaminated.

Treatment board

We recommend using a whiteboard or piece of paper/notebook to keep track of all medications. Here is an example treatment sheet for the first 72 hours with checkboxes for each treatment time.

Note:

- Each kitten may have different doses
 - Make it clear to yourself which kitten has larger/different doses
- Write it in a way that makes sense for you, being sure to know which medications are by mouth and which are injectable. If you want to be fancy, here's some terminology:
 - PO = per os, by mouth
 - SQ = sounds like "subcutaneous", under the skin (in fluids)

Drug	AM	Noon	PM
Metronidazole 0.1 mL PO	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
Entyce 0.05 mL PO			<input type="checkbox"/>
Fluids 20 mL Fluffy 30 mL Snowball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cerenia 0.05 mL SQ	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Baytril 0.05 mL SQ	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>
B12 0.1 mL SQ	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Cefazolin 0.2 mL SQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ondansetron 0.4 mL SQ	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THESE ARE EXAMPLE DOSES ONLY -- USE THE DOSES PRESCRIBED FOR YOUR KITTEN!

Monitoring

This is the same as for level 3 and for the squirt squad: monitor weight, fecal score, and signs of pain/nausea closely. In addition, we'll be monitoring activity and temperature.

Weight

Keeping track of your kittens' weight is the most important thing you will be doing as a foster! Weight gain or loss is the number one factor in determining your kitten's overall health and wellbeing.

If you weigh your kitten at the same time every day, you'll start to see a pattern of how much they are growing each day on average. Kittens should gain at least 15 grams per day, ideally closer to 30-50 grams.

Fecal score

Monitor stools and score them. Apart from weight, fecal score is one of the most essential things to monitor in any kitten. Normal kitten stool is a score 2-4/7 and diarrhea is a 5-7/7. 5/7 can be normal, but is often seen with increased frequency of bowel movements, and in those cases is also considered diarrhea.

Fecal scores should gradually improve day by day. Kittens with mild diarrhea (5-6/7) should have normal stool within 3-5 days of treatment. Kittens with severe diarrhea (7/7) often take a week or longer to have perfect poops again.



Signs of pain and nausea

Kittens that have diarrhea often will show signs of tummy pain and nausea. If you see any of these signs in your kittens, contact shelter staff for medication to relieve their pain and nausea.

1. **Poor appetite:** An obvious sign of nausea is not wanting to eat! Sometimes they will take just a few bites and then turn or walk away. This shows that they are hungry and want to eat, but their nausea is overwhelming.
2. **Lethargy:** Kittens that have stomach pain will not be active and will prefer just to lay around.
3. **Hunched back, legs tucked in:** Kitten will sit, stand, or lay with their legs under their belly. This is because they are guarding their abdomen. It's the same as when you curl up in the fetal position or double over when you have a bad tummy ache.
4. **Licking lips:** When a kitten licks their lips excessively/repetitively, especially when not eating or grooming, this is a sign of nausea. Often this is accompanied with a hard swallow. Think of when you get a dry mouth or salivate too much when you are nauseous—it's the same thing! Lip-licking can be seen after you pick them up or touch their tummy.
5. **Squinting and tense face:** This is a sign of any type of pain in any animal. You will notice that their eyes are partially closed, whiskers are clumped and pulled back, and their muzzle is tense.
6. **Grinding teeth:** Less commonly, you will hear a loud chewing noise when your kitten eats. It can also look like they are "choking" on their food or have food stuck in their mouth. They may paw at their face as well.

See instructional videos on YouTube for video examples of these signs

Activity and lethargy

Monitor how much the kitten gets up, uses the litter box, flops over, or moves at all. In critically ill kittens, they will tend to sit or lie in one place. If you see a kitten lying in one spot all day, you should be concerned that they may be declining. A kitten who doesn't move, moves slowly, or seems weak (unable to move) is a kitten that is in major trouble!

With panleukopenia kittens, we expect them to sit or lie around most of the time, but to still get up and move a bit. This is due to abdominal pain, as described above. Once they are feeling better, we should see them playing, climbing, wrestling, and acting more like normal kittens.

Temperature

Make sure that your kittens are kept exceptionally warm and have at least one heat source provided. A kitten that becomes cold during panleukopenia treatment is more likely to become septic and die. Watch your kittens' body language and make sure they are sprawled out and breathing comfortably on the heat pad, not curled up in a ball.

Follow-up appointments

- For the first 72 hours, you will have daily telemedicine consults with the veterinarian
 - Staff will help you schedule these appointments
- You can do check-ins as often as you like; a veterinarian will always be available to answer your questions.
- After the first 72 hours, video rechecks will be less frequent, depending on your comfort level and how the kitten is responding.
- You do not need to return to the shelter for a “routine recheck”
- Do not schedule wellness appointments during panleukopenia treatment

Isolation of sick kittens

- Cats with panleukopenia must be kept in isolation in a room with minimal furnishings and no carpet
 - Ideally this room should have no fabric, rugs, furniture, couches, drapes, or other items which can harbor germs
 - Make sure the room is warm and free from drafts
 - Natural light is a bonus, but not required
 - A spare bathroom is ideal
 - Garages or sunrooms which are temperature-controlled are acceptable
 - The shelter cannot pay for steam cleaning or loss of property if the cats infect uncleanable items in the house
- Set up a metal cage in a room without carpet, e.g., a spare bedroom or bathroom
 - If your playpen has already been contaminated with panleukopenia, keep them in that playpen
 - Contaminated playpens must be destroyed after panleukopenia fosters leave
 - You can borrow a metal cage from the shelter
- We recommend putting the metal cage on a heavy-duty shower curtain on the wall/floor or table for easy cleaning
- Assume that everything the kitten touches is contaminated, including blankets, toys, bowls, litter boxes, carriers, brushes/combs, playpen, etc
 - Keep sick kitten supplies away from your regular pet supplies and from other kitten supplies
- Litter or poop which falls on the ground can contaminate the floor and your shoes/feet
 - Mop daily or vacuum and spray with Rescue around where the kittens are kept to minimize contamination of the floor
 - Optional: wear disposable booties over your feet or wear socks into the room then take the socks off before leaving and wash with other panleukopenia clothing laundry
- Wash your hands or wear gloves when handling kittens or contaminated supplies during isolation

- Assume that they are contagious, and try to minimize their spread of germs onto your clothes or hair
- We recommend having dedicated snuggle clothes that you wear when touching the kittens
- After playtime, wash hands, take a shower, and put your dirty snuggle clothes into a plastic bag to be washed later
- Do not let your pets interact with the kittens
 - Make sure your own cats are up to date on vaccines; the vaccine is very effective!
 - Keep infected kittens isolated from uninfected pets and do not allow them to share any items or bedding (do separate laundry)
 - If you suspect that your own cats have panleukopenia infection, please contact your personal veterinarian for treatment advice. We cannot provide compensation for veterinary care for your pets.
- Do not foster any other kittens while treating your fosters for panleukopenia; this means no overnights

Clearing panleukopenia

After kittens appear normal (normal stool), they need to remain in isolation for an additional 14 days. After 14 days, they should no longer be shedding the virus and can return to the shelter for wellness or spay/neuter.

Panleukopenia virus can live in the environment for years; thus, after your kittens leave, you may only foster vaccinated kittens or kittens with panleukopenia for the rest of the year or until after you've thoroughly cleaned and disinfected your home. Speak with shelter staff about what is best for your situation.

Cleaning and disinfection

It is extremely important to thoroughly clean and disinfect all items. Use all the same cleaning techniques recommended in the chapter on cleaning and disinfection in the foster manual, with some modifications.

Remember, after cleaning an item, use 1:16 Rescue or 1:32 bleach left on for 10 minutes of contact time!

Daily cleaning

To minimize the amount of disease particles in the environment:

- Kitten bedding should be changed daily
- Floors around the kitten enclosure should be vacuumed daily

Laundry

- Keep panleukopenia laundry separate from all other (uncontaminated) kitten laundry

- It is optional - but best practice - to have a separate set of clothes reserved for dealing with contagious kittens and their spaces, and to wash them frequently
 - Keep your contaminated clothing separate from all other laundry
 - You don't want to wash contaminated clothing with poopy kitten bedding or with your normal clothes.
- Wash laundry in hot water (sanitize settings) with a quarter cup of bleach or according to your washer's manufacturer instructions
- Dry on highest heat

Cleaning and disinfecting between litters

After all panleukopenia kittens leave and you are ready to completely decontaminate your space, you will need to throw away all exposed carpeted or soft items. The shelter will be able to supply you with replacement bedding, towels, and toys. The shelter will not be able to replace playpens.

Here is a good example of how to effectively clean and disinfect your home:

1. Dump used litter and uneaten food
2. Throw away all items which cannot be effectively disinfected, e.g.,
 - a. Scratching posts
 - b. Bedding, towels
 - c. Toys and stuffed animals
 - d. Brushes with bristles
 - e. Collars, leashes
 - f. Playpens
 - g. Paperwork
 - h. Syringes
 - i. Medications
 - j. Bottles, nipples, or other feeding supplies
 - k. Cardboard carriers
 - l. Playpen
 - m. Fabric heating pads
3. Clean and disinfect all plastic or metal items
 - a. Litter box
 - b. Scale, bowl for weighing kittens
 - i. Do not submerge scale in water; use wipes or spray on a cloth to clean and disinfect
 - c. Plastic carriers
 - d. Metal dog crates
 - e. Plastic heating pads/discs
4. Clean and disinfect room/area where kittens were
 - a. If your kitten was in the bathroom, this means thoroughly cleaning and disinfecting everything in your bathroom

- b. Clean and disinfect all hard surfaces, floor and walls, anywhere the kittens have been, e.g., table where carrier or cage was kept, floor under playpen, etc.
 - c. Remember, look for poop splatter on baseboards and walls!
5. For the rest of your house...
- a. Exposed carpets and furniture should be vacuumed multiple times, followed by either saturation with 1:16 rescue or **commercial** steam cleaning
 - i. Domestic steam cleaners don't get hot enough
 - b. Hard floors should be mopped with Rescue or bleach
 - i. Discard mophead, throw mophead in washer, or clean and disinfect mophead with disinfectant after use
 - c. Clean and disinfect all other hard surfaces where the kitten has been

We recommend repeating deep cleaning 2-3 times until you are sure the whole space is completely clean. After you have completed deep cleaning, contact staff for further instructions. If your home has been completely decontaminated and you have staff approval, then you can take kittens and overnights again.