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MISSION

The Anti-Cruelty Society builds a healthy and happy community where pets and people thrive together.

What Are Neonatal Kittens?

As early as April and often lasting all the way through October, kitten season comes into full force. As the weather warms up, kittens are born in cozy little corners all over Chicago.

Neonate kittens are some of the most vulnerable creatures around. They rely almost entirely on someone else for nourishment, warmth, and protection. Neonates also require round-the-clock care in the first few weeks of life, from birth to four weeks old. During this stage, their mother or caregiver is absolutely essential for their survival.

They need to be fed every 2-3 hours and require stimulation to defecate. It's vital they're provided with proper nutrition, warmth, and hygiene to ensure they grow and mature. Taking care of neonatal kittens can take a great deal of work, but it's also quite a rewarding experience.

As time passes, the kittens begin to grow and develop in the most spectacular ways. After about seven to

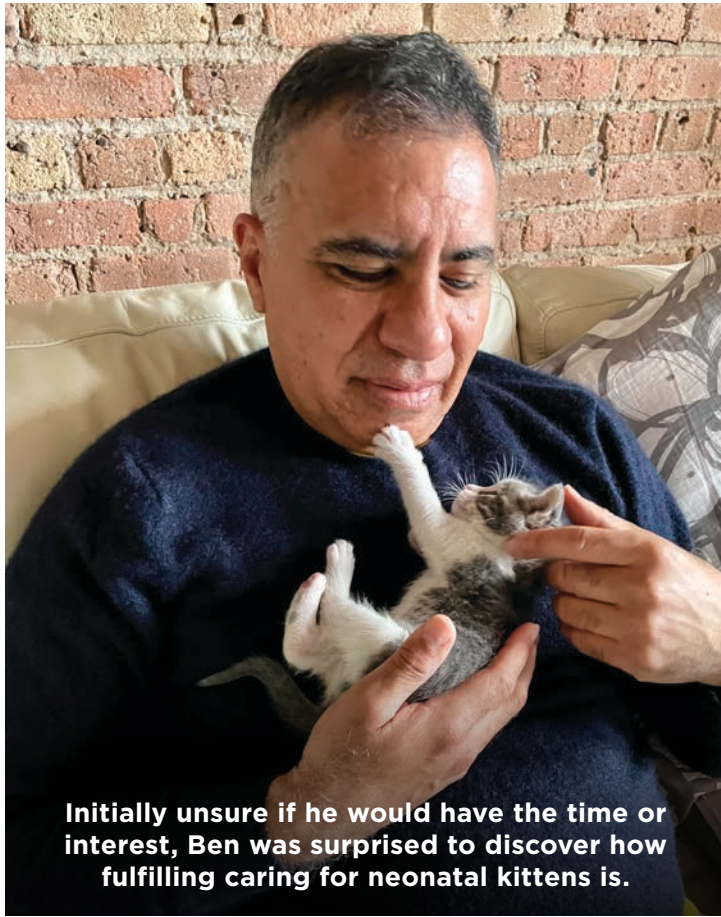
14 days into their young lives, neonates' eyes and ear canals open, revealing a vast new world of sights and sounds. Exploring their surroundings and clumsily stumbling around on unsteady legs, these litters slowly gain confidence.

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As weeks turn into months, the kittens grow bigger and more adventurous. This protection and care from the earliest stages of their young lives makes all the difference in the world and allows them to eventually take care of neonates of their own.

Fostering is an incredibly powerful way to make an impact on our animals and support our shelter. For more information about our foster program, visit [anticruelty.org/fosters](https://www.anticruelty.org/fosters).

Growing into Love



Initially unsure if he would have the time or interest, Ben was surprised to discover how fulfilling caring for neonatal kittens is.



Every day is a new opportunity to grow. Sometimes we grow in ways we never could have imagined! Winnie and Ben Chen are no strangers to seeing miraculous transformations as neonatal kitten fosters for The Anti-Cruelty Society.

When Winnie and Ben first got married, Winnie had two cats and Ben was unsure of his new roommates. “He had been just ‘tolerating’ sharing the living spaces with the cats, but not really paying much attention to them or trying to understand them,” recalls Winnie, “to be fair, though, his career left him with very little time to get to know them.”

When Winnie’s two beloved cats passed away, they decided to go cat-less for 10 years. It wasn’t until Ben retired a few years ago that the pair decided to try something new. They agreed to foster some neonatal kittens from The Anti-Cruelty Society. At first, Ben was hesitant to get involved. He saw firsthand how demanding the work and interaction with kittens could be. Once he started experiencing the excitement of the kittens growing and developing, and was rewarded with their trust, recognition, and love, he became fully immersed in the process.

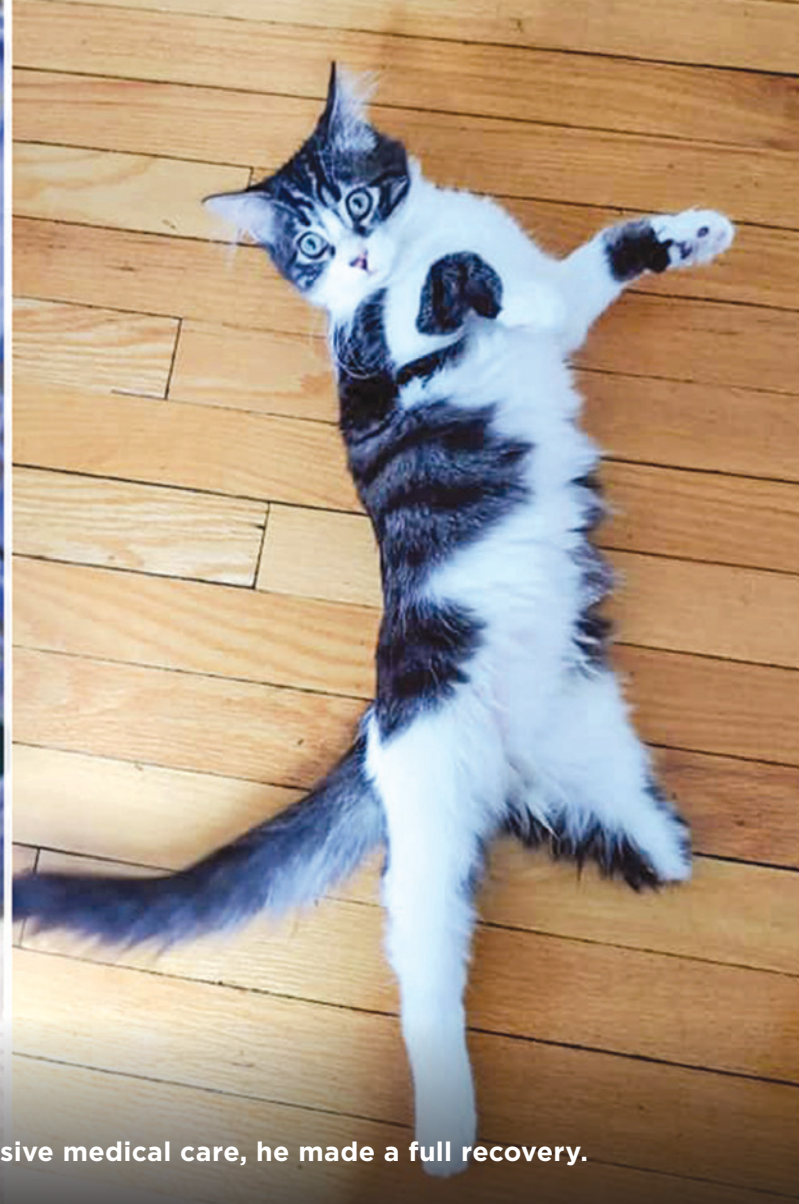
Today, Ben is a full-fledged cat lover. He can’t get enough of all things felines, something that Winnie never could have imagined when she originally took on the challenging, yet fulfilling, responsibility of caring for neonatal kittens.

“I can say with confidence that he is a true cat person now, and I am extremely proud of him,” says Winnie.

Thanks to Winnie and Ben’s outstanding commitment, we are continuing to build a healthy and happy community where pets and people thrive together. To find out more about how these bottle babies are shaping lives for the better, visit anticruelty.org/kittens and consider fostering today!



After Winnie’s two beloved cats passed away, she redirected her compassion into caring for neonatal kittens.



Franklin came to us in dire need. After extensive medical care, he made a full recovery.

Franklin the Fighter

Franklin was born into a world of uncertainty. With his umbilical cord wrapped tightly around his back leg, the kitten faced a tough road ahead. Despite losing a limb to amputation, Franklin refused to be slowed down and learned to get around on three legs—but the best was yet to come.

Franklin's story is a testament to the power of love and resilience.

Eventually, Franklin found his fur-ever home with a feline sibling and loving human dad. Franklin adjusted to his new environment and became a symbol of hope for overcoming even the most difficult of challenges early in life.

Franklin's story is a testament to the power of love and resilience. It serves as a reminder of the importance of fostering, a means of providing a temporary home and a chance for a better life to those who are most vulnerable.

At The Anti-Cruelty Society, we are committed to providing the BEST Care to all animals in need. We recognize that vulnerable animals have the potential to thrive in a nurturing home environment that allows them to develop and grow. That is why we are so grateful to our dedicated network of fosters, and encourage the community to consider opening their homes and hearts by fostering an ACS animal.

There are plenty of stories just like Franklin's. Visit [anticruelty.org/foster-pets](https://www.anticruelty.org/foster-pets) to learn more and see if you would be an ideal fit for one of our adoption and foster programs.

Ways to Take Action

At The Anti-Cruelty Society, we always strive to ensure the BEST Care for animals. Thanks to our generous donors and supporters, we provide a safe haven for animals as they journey to find a forever home. There are endless opportunities to get involved and make an impact on our animals' lives. We hope you consider volunteering, fostering, donating, or adopting. The different ways in which people pitch in to build a healthy and happy community where pets and people thrive together is nothing short of extraordinary.

CONSIDER FOSTERING

Shelter life for animals can be stressful and intimidating. That's why The Anti-Cruelty Society's Foster Program ensures extra care and support for animals from all walks of life! The individual love and compassion of a foster parent gives pets the opportunity to flourish in a home. The Anti-Cruelty Society provides all fosters with medical care, program training, starter supplies, behavior guidance, and ongoing support. If you have any extra room in your heart to take on foster volunteer opportunities, contact us at foster@anticruelty.org to get involved!

BECOME AN ADOPTION AMBASSADOR

Looking for a different way to champion animals? Consider becoming an Adoption Ambassador! This program connects shelter animals with foster families



For more ideas on how you can help, visit anticruelty.org/other-giving.

to provide them with a home-based environment while working to recruit an adopter with a grassroots approach. Generally, this includes dogs or cats that need special exposure and attention. Interested in using your network of animal lovers to help pets in need? Visit anticruelty.org/adoption-ambassadors to learn more!

VISIT OUR ONLINE STORE

Have you seen our online store? We have new 125th anniversary gear as we celebrate another year of bringing hope to pets and people in need. Every online store purchase helps provide medical care, food, and shelter for The Anti-Cruelty Society. Visit anticrueltyshop.org to find ACS-branded sweatshirts, t-shirts, coffee mugs, water bottles, and more!

ACF-22080

THE IMPACT WE MAKE TOGETHER

4,263
ANIMALS
PLACED

in safe and loving homes in 2022

1,310
PETS
FOSTERED

in 2022, providing a loving home while they wait for adoption

145,046
FREE PET
MEALS

provided from our Pop-Up Pet Food Pantries across Chicago

Your support ensures our continued work to provide the BEST Care. Thank you!

Donate today at www.anticruelty.org and help care for homeless animals in the Chicago area.

