



Palm Beach County
Board of County Commissioners
Public Safety Department
Animal Care and Control Division

DON'T KITNAP!

Where are
my babies?

Where is
our mom?



Every year, kitten season puts strain on animal shelters and rescues across the country when well-meaning citizens kidnap kittens from their mothers.

1 I found kittens, what do I do?

DON'T KITNAP! If the kittens appear healthy, give mom some time. The kittens' best chances for survival are with their mom. She is probably nearby and hunting for food. It is best to keep your distance. You can help by putting out high-calorie food and water near her nest, but not close enough to scare her away.

3 Why are there so many cats?

On average, a cat can have 2-3 litters of kittens each year with each litter containing 4-6 kittens. A kitten can start having their own babies as early as 4 months old. This means that when left unmonitored, cat colonies can go from 1 male and 1 female to over 100 cats in about 4 years and over 1000 cats in about 6 years. While in other areas of the country kitten season can be from May-September, in South Florida it can be as long as March-October or even longer!

2 Why leave them be?

A kitten's best chance of survival is with its mom. For the first few months of the baby's life, mom's milk provides the baby with essential nutrients and antibodies against diseases that they can't make on their own. Additionally, kittens learn important behaviors from their moms that they will need as they grow like social cues and litter box habits. In the long run, kittens are best cared for by their mom, and being taken away from her too soon can lead to behavioral and health problems.



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