

Working together to save cats!

Underage kittens (less than 8 weeks old) are at an extremely HIGH RISK at crowded shelters and rescues where disease can spread quickly and adversely affect these vulnerable animals, sometimes fatally.

Our local public intake facility (Alachua County Animal Services) and our local rescues do an incredible job of saving lives, but they need our help! There is simply not enough room to house, treat, and adopt out all of the kittens in need. When there is no more space, kittens are at high risk of euthanasia.

By supporting caregivers who agree to nurture the kittens of their community cats, we reduce the number of cats outside and increase the number of spayed and neutered cats. In addition, more cats end up in loving homes. This program is a proactive approach in providing pediatric sterilization.

To learn more about the program and get signed up as a participant:

Email

info@ocgainesville.org

or

**Call 352-380-0940 and
leave a message**

Wellness Care

In partnership with the Humane Society of North Central Florida, we provide opportunities for wellness care before surgery for kittens under 8 weeks old. This includes age-appropriate vaccines, deworming, and care for minor injuries or illnesses.

Contact Operation Catnip and register your kittens for the program. Kittens too young for surgery can stay healthy with good wellness care! After the kittens are registered, you may utilize check-in at the clinic during the times below.
(in the front of HSNCF's building: 4205 NW 6th St)
Let the clinic staff know that the kittens are part of the "Kitten Shelter Diversion Program."

Days	Hours
Tuesday	10am - 4pm (walk-in)
Wednesday	10am - 12pm (appt only) 1pm - 4pm (walk-in)
Thursday	10am - 4pm (walk-in)



Kitten Shelter Diversion Program



**Helping our community
care for kittens**

www.operationcatnip.org

The Kitten Shelter Diversion (KSD) Program is a partnership between Operation Catnip, the Humane Society of North Central Florida, and our community cat caregivers. Working together, we keep kittens out of our crowded shelters and rescues by caregivers placing them into loving homes after sterilization and vaccination! Trapping and sterilization of the other cats in the area is critical to the success of this program.

Who qualifies for the Kitten Shelter Diversion Program?

- If you have kittens under 4 months (4 pounds) who are offspring of community cats, you qualify for this program!

As a KSD participant, you agree to do the following:

- House and care for the kittens until their spay-neuter procedures have been completed and you have found them loving homes.

- Find indoor homes for the kittens through your social network of friends, family, and co-workers. Do NOT surrender these kittens to a shelter or rescue and do NOT adopt out ANY of the kittens prior to sterilization!

- Make all reasonable efforts to bring and/or trap the mother cat and any unneutered cats in your area for spay-neuter. (If we don't get them all you will keep seeing kittens!)

- Educate your friends and neighbors about available programs and the importance of spay-neuter for all the cats in your neighborhood or where you work.

Donations keep this program free. Donate now at www.operationcatnip.org



4 WEEKS OLD

- Around 4 weeks of age, kittens can be weaned off mom or the bottle and onto wet, pate-style kitten food.
- At 1 pound (usually 4 weeks of age) they should begin receiving FVRCP vaccinations, to be repeated every 2 weeks until they are 12 weeks old. Kittens should begin deworming treatment at 2 weeks of age, repeated every 2 weeks until 12 weeks of age.
- Around 5 weeks of age, hard kibble (kitten diet) can be introduced in addition to wet food.



6-8 WEEKS OLD

- Once they reach 2 pounds in weight (usually around 8 weeks of age) they can be spayed-neutered. At this point, they graduate from our KSD program, and go to their forever homes! They generally receive a FVRCP vaccination at the time of surgery.



12 WEEKS OLD

- Adopters should ensure that the kittens continue to receive FVRCP vaccinations through their regular veterinarian.
- At 12 weeks of age, they should also receive a rabies vaccination!
- Deworming and flea control should continue monthly.

WHAT WE DO:

- Provide spay-neuter and age-appropriate vaccination services at no charge for the kittens in this program. Other cats in the community must come through regular Catnip Programs.
- Loan out traps, large dog crates, and litter boxes for FREE to catch cats and house kittens safely.
- Share information (if photos and flyers are provided) about the kittens on our Facebook page and help connect you with anyone who expresses interest in adopting them. However, your social network is the best source for finding homes.



WHAT WE DON'T DO:

- Tip the left ear of kittens in this program, since you are agreeing to find indoor-only homes for them.
- Find homes for the kittens or house them at our facility.
- Microchip and provide FeLV/FIV testing. Adopters should follow up with their regular veterinarian to obtain these crucial services, continue vaccinations, and establish a good schedule of preventative care.