



# KITTEN SHELTER DIVERSION

A partnership between Operation Catnip and community caregivers to keep kittens out of our crowded shelters and rescues and into loving homes after completion of spay-neuter surgeries. Here's how you can be a community hero for cats!

## **So You've Found Some Kittens! Here's What You Do:**

- House and care for the kittens until their spay-neuter procedures have been completed and homes have been found.
- Find homes for the kittens through your social network of friends, family, coworkers. *Do not surrender these kittens to a shelter or rescue!*
- Make all reasonable efforts to bring and/or trap the mother cat and any other unneutered cats in your area for spay-neuter.

## **What We Do:**

- Provide spay-neuter and vaccination services for FREE for the kittens and any other adult community cats in the area.
- Loan out traps, large dog crates, and litter boxes for FREE to catch cats and house kittens safely.
- If photos and flyers are provided to us, we are happy to share information about the kittens on our Facebook and help connect you to anyone who reaches out through our page about adopting.

## **What We Don't Do:**

- Find homes for the kittens or house them at our facility.
- Microchipping and FeLV/FIV testing (although these are highly recommended for indoor pet cats). Adopters should follow up with their regular vets to continue vaccination series and establish a good schedule of preventative care.

## **Why Do We Do This?**

- Underage (less than 8 weeks old) kittens are at extremely high risk at crowded shelters and rescues where disease can spread quickly and affect these vulnerable animals heavily and sometimes fatally.
- Our local public intake facility (Alachua County Animal Services) and our local rescues do an incredible job at 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. Supporting caregivers who participate in this program means less cats outside and more spayed-neutered!

## **How Can I Get Signed Up?**

Contact Operation Catnip on our voicemail at 352-380-0940 or (for fastest response) email us at [info@ocgainesville.org](mailto:info@ocgainesville.org). You can send us a picture of the kittens and we can estimate their ages if you are unsure. Surgery dates can then be scheduled accordingly. We are open Saturdays 9am to 1pm to loan traps and other supplies.

*Thanks for being a hero to cats!*