

Lesson Plan 07

All About Community Cats!

Goal(s):

Understanding the role of community cats in our neighborhoods.



Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe what to look for to decide if a kitten or litter of kittens needs help.
2. Respond to different scenarios and tell what they would do.
3. Identify what steps to decide whether to rescue or release a kitten that has been found outdoors.

Subject(s):

Health, Language Arts, Social Emotional Learning

TEKS:

Health (b)(3) Mental health and wellness--social and emotional health. The student identifies and applies strategies to develop socio-emotional health, self-regulation, and healthy relationships. The student is expected to:(F) describe the value of respectful communication;(G) discuss how others may experience situations differently than oneself; and(H) demonstrate strategies for resolving conflicts.

LA (b) Knowledge and skills. (1) Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, discussion, and thinking--oral language. The student develops oral language through listening, speaking, and discussion. The student is expected to:(A) listen actively, ask relevant questions to clarify information, and make pertinent comments; (B) follow, restate, and give oral instructions that involve a series of related sequences of action; (C) speak coherently about the topic under discussion, employing eye contact, speaking rate, volume, enunciation, and the conventions of language to communicate ideas effectively; (D) work collaboratively with others by following agreed-upon rules, norms, and protocols;

Social Emotional Learning:

Responsible Decision Making



- Identify safe and unsafe situations and how to respond.
- Describe what you can learn from a mistake.
- Evaluate how others influence your decisions and behaviors.

Time:

Total Time: 90 minutes

Lesson: Two 30-minute sessions

Assessment: One 30-minute session

(Time estimates are approximate)

Materials:

- Teacher copy of the “Found Kittens” Flier
- Teacher copy of T-Chart Example 07.1
- Device for each student, or the teacher may present or project to the class.
- “All About Community Cats”
 - [Find this video on YouTube](#)
- Teacher copy of “Help! I found a kitten!” Flowchart Poster
- Print a class set of Community Cats Quiz | Lesson 07.3 Assessment
- Teacher copy of Community Cats Quiz | Lesson 07.3 Assessment Answer Key

Vocabulary:

Community Cats - an unowned cat (it doesn't have an owner) that lives outside. They are also called stray or feral cats.

Thrive - to grow or develop well or vigorously.

Colony - a group of community cats who are bonded to each other and live together in a specific area outdoors.

Socialized - a term referring to cats who are generally friendly with or accustomed to humans or cats who enjoy companionship with us in our homes.

Activity 1:

Prepare a large T-Chart Example 07.1 to record the class discussion.

Ask students:

- “Who has a cat for a pet?”
- “What is the difference between a community cat and an owned or pet cat?”
- “What do you know about Outdoor Cats or Community Cats?”
- “Have you ever found a kitten or kittens outside?”
- “Did you know what to do?”
- “What did you do?”

Ask students to share their ideas. Record the students’ answers on the large T-Chart Example 07.1 in the appropriate column.

Using a device applicable to your classroom, display the “Found Kittens” Flier and read it aloud to the class.

After reading the flier, show students the [All About Community Cats video](#).

Continue the discussion and record the students’ answers on the large T-Chart Example 07.1 in the appropriate column.

Ask students:

- “What have you learned about Outdoor Cats or Community Cats?”
- “How should you handle kittens that you find outside?”

Activity 2:

Role-Play

Pair the students with a buddy or a small group for the following activity called, “Which Cat Am I?” Each student takes a turn being a cat, and the buddy can guess which type of cat the student is playing: a house or pet cat versus a community cat. The students can take turns role-playing and acting as the different cats.

Assessment:

Using a device applicable to your classroom, display the “Help! I found a kitten!” Flowchart Poster and read aloud to the class.

Distribute the class set of Community Cats Quiz | Lesson 07.3 Assessment to students.

Instruct them to complete the assessment by following the instructions on the page.

Compare answers with the Community Cats Quiz | Lesson 07.3 Assessment Answer Key.

Teacher Tip:

Make students aware of animal shelters, animal control, and other animal resources that may be available in your area.



Found Kittens?

Let Mother and Kittens Thrive Outside

If you find kittens outdoors, DO NOT pick them up and take them indoors. Their mother is probably close by so please... Leave Them Be™.

Why Shouldn't I Take Kittens Inside?

Separating kittens younger than ~8 weeks old from their mother is harmful to their wellbeing. Kittens need their mother and she is their best possible caregiver.

How Old Is That Kitten? *Our guide will help you determine a kitten's age and the care they need. Visit alleycat.org/KittenProgression.*



What About an Animal Shelter?

Do not take mother cats or kittens to an animal shelter. Most shelters don't have programs to provide the care unweaned kittens need. There is a risk the kittens will be killed.

How Can I Help?

You can help kittens by providing their mother with essentials like:

- Regular food and water. *Get the details at alleycat.org/BestPractices.*
- An outdoor shelter. *Find options at alleycat.org/ShelterGallery.*
- Peace and quiet. *Keep an eye on mother and kittens but leave them be.*

I Don't See the Mother Cat

That doesn't mean the kittens are abandoned or orphaned. Their mother may just be out looking for food. She might even be hiding from you. Check on kittens for several hours, staying out of sight, to see if their mother returns.

What if the Kittens are Sick?

Contact your local veterinarian for help right away if the mother cat or kittens appear ill or injured.

TEXAS HUMANE
NETWORK



Learn more at alleycat.org/LeaveThemBe.

HELP, I FOUND A KITTEN!

Found kittens outside and don't know what to do?
This flowchart will help you take steps to make the best decisions for their care!

ARE THE KITTENS 8 WEEKS OR OLDER?

Visit alleycat.org/KittenProgression to help determine how old the kittens are.

NO

YES

ARE THE KITTENS WITH MOM?

TIP:
Newborn, or "neonatal," kittens have closed eyes, folded ears, and can't walk. Be extra careful with these fragile babies.

ARE THE KITTENS FRIENDLY?

NO

YES

YES

NO

DID MOM COME BACK A FEW HOURS LATER?

TIP:
Eight-week-old kittens play, behave, and look like adult cats. They should weigh at least 2 pounds and can be spayed or neutered!

NO

YES

KITTEN CARE



Without mom to care for them, these kittens need your help! Neonatal kittens especially require round-the-clock care including bottle-feedings.

Go here for more help:
alleycat.org/Neonatal

KEEP WITH MOM



If they are doing well, let kittens stay with mom outdoors. When they are ready for spay and neuter, TNR all of them. (Or, foster then adopt kittens.)

Go here for more help:
alleycat.org/MomAndKittens

FIND NEW HOME



Ask a veterinarian to examine and spay or neuter the kittens. Then find homes where the kittens can be socialized to people.

Go here for more help:
alleycat.org/Socialization

TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN



Kittens over 4 months old cannot be socialized, but will live long, healthy outdoor lives. Neuter and vaccinate before returning them to their colony.

Go here for more help:
alleycat.org/TNR

Community Cats Quiz | Lesson 07.3 Assessment

Name _____ Date _____

Use the flowchart to answer the True or False questions. Circle the correct answer.

1. True or False: Community kittens without mom to care for them do not need help.
2. True or False: Community Kittens over 8 weeks old, if they are friendly can be rescued and given a home.
3. True or False: Community Kittens over 4 months old cannot be socialized but can be trapped and neutered or spayed and returned to their colony.
4. True or False: Community kittens that are doing well and with their mom can be left with the cat colony.
5. True or False: Kittens under 8 weeks old without mom to care for them can live on their own.



Lesson Plan 07

Community Cats Quiz | Lesson 07.3

Answer Key:

1. True or **FALSE**: Community kittens without mom to care for them do not need help.
2. **TRUE** or False: Community Kittens over 8 weeks old, if they are friendly can be rescued and given a home.
3. **TRUE** Or False: Community Kittens over 4 months old cannot be socialized but can be trapped and neutered or spayed and returned to their colony.
4. **TRUE** or False: Community kittens that are doing well and with their mom can be left with the cat colony.
5. True or **FALSE**: Kittens under 8 weeks old without mom to care for them can live on their own.



AWAREness Journal

NAME _____

SKETCH

Draw the animal covered in your lesson.



FAVORITE

What was your favorite part of this lesson?



WRITE

Answer your teachers writing prompt following the lesson you just completed.