

KITTEN DEVELOPMENT

0-2 weeks – neonatal

Born blind, deaf, and unable to regulate body temperature
Need mom to stimulate them to urinate and defecate

2-7 weeks – beginning of socialization

By week 4, kittens can smell and hear and are interacting with their littermates

By week 5, vision is well developed and the kitten is able to walk and pounce

Weaning often occurs between 6 and 8 weeks

Kittens become more interactive during this period as well – kittens who are gently handled by people for at least 15 minutes a day have improved social development

7-14 weeks: Continued socialization and playtime!

Coordination and social skills improve

Playtime with other kittens and objects

3-6 months – ranking

Kittens are influenced by litter (both actual littermates and other playmates)

Begin to see and use ranking (dominant and submissive) within the house (including humans)

6-18 months – adolescence

Increased exploration of dominance

If not spayed or neutered, sexual behavior will begin