

# Single Kitten Syndrome



## UNDERSTANDING SINGLE KITTEN SYNDROME.

### What is Single Kitten Syndrome?

Single Kitten Syndrome refers to the challenges faced by kittens that are raised alone without the company of other kittens or cats. While every kitten is deserving of love and care, growing up without siblings can lead to various behavioural and social issues that can impact their development.

### Why is it Important?

Kittens learn essential social skills from their littermates during their crucial developmental weeks. These skills include how to play appropriately, bite inhibition, and how to engage in social interactions with other felines. When a kitten is raised in isolation, it risks missing out on these vital lessons, potentially resulting in ongoing behaviour problems as they grow older.

### Signs of Single Kitten Syndrome

**Kittens raised alone may display several behavioural signs, such as:**

- **Over-Affection:** Single kittens often seek constant human attention and can become overly clingy or needy.
- **Poor Socialisation:** They may struggle to interact appropriately with other cats or animals, leading to aggressive or fearful behaviours.
- **Inappropriate Play:** Without siblings to engage with, they may not learn how to play gently, resulting in rough play with humans and other pets.
- **Separation Anxiety:** These kittens can have heightened anxiety when left alone, leading to stress and behavioural issues.

### Why Enchanted Rescue Has a Policy for Adopting Kittens

At Enchanted Rescue, we are dedicated to ensuring the long-term wellbeing of the animals we save. That's why our adoption policy strictly states that kittens under 6 months of age cannot be adopted out without a feline playmate in the home or as a pair (depending on each kitten's individual needs and personality).

### Reasons for Our Policy:

- 1. Social Development:** Kittens need the opportunity to learn from each other, and having a playmate encourages healthy social development. This interaction helps them learn how to communicate and play properly.
- 2. Reduced Behavioural Issues:** By adopting kittens in pairs or ensuring they have feline companions, we help reduce the likelihood of behaviour problems, such as anxiety or aggression.
- 3. Life Skills:** Kittens learn important life skills through play, such as hunting, grooming, and establishing boundaries. These skills are crucial for their development into well-rounded adult cats.
- 4. Healthy Bonding:** Kittens that grow up together often develop strong bonds, which can create a happier and more stable home environment for both the cats and their human companions.

Adopting a kitten is a long-term commitment that requires consideration of their social needs. Enchanted Rescue is committed to ensuring that each kitten we place into a forever home is set up for success. By adhering to our policy on feline companionship for young kittens, we aim to promote healthier, happier lives for our feline friends while helping them thrive in their new families.

If you're considering adopting a kitten, please remember the importance of providing them with the companionship they need. Thank you for supporting our mission to rescue and rehome vulnerable animals!