



If you're handling a baby kitten or puppy, read this first—or you may cause unintentional harm!

Baby animals have extremely fragile immune systems, and improper handling can cause life-threatening illness.

BABY SAFE BIOSECURITY



USE CLEAN HANDS

You can carry pathogens on your hands or gloves that are deadly.

- Don't touch dirty surfaces—doorknobs, faucets, supplies, even your phone—and then touch a baby or an item a baby will use.
- **Option 1: Wash hands** with hot, soapy water before and after every interaction. *Hand sanitizer is not effective against animal pathogens.*
- **Option 2: Wear fresh gloves**...properly! Gloves are not magical shields; they will pick up particles, too. Don't touch common areas with the same glove you use to handle a baby. Change gloves between litters!
- Don't allow the public to touch baby animals.



AVOID CROSS-CONTAMINATION

Assume every item and surface in the shelter is contaminated.

- Use a pee pad or clean towel as a protective barrier for surfaces like exam tables, feeding stations, and scales.
- Only offer clean items. If something has touched the floor, common areas, dirty hands, or another animal, it should not go back to the kitten or puppy until disinfected.
- Cardboard is single use. If an animal has already used it, it's contaminated. Toss it.
- Kittens and puppies should not be held in pockets or against clothing. Limit contact with anything outside of their safe space.



PRACTICE FOOD SAFETY

Improper food handling leads to bacterial diarrhea that can be fatal.

- Don't reheat formula more than once; it grows bacteria quickly.
- Don't leave a bottle out on a counter or in a kennel. Dump it or put it in the fridge.
- Discard wet food after 1 hour; don't leave it sitting out.
- Label all opened containers and prepared formula with dates; refrigerate and discard according to product label.
- Wash bottles, nipples, and dishes with hot soapy water between use.



SEPARATE FROM OTHERS

Healthy-looking kittens and puppies can still harbor infectious diseases.

- Only house baby animals with their intake group; mixing litters can cause disease to spread before symptoms appear.
- Use dedicated supplies and bottles for each group.
- Even in foster homes, keep baby animals quarantined for 14 days to monitor for illness and prevent outbreaks.
- Isolate from high-traffic areas. Visual access is safe, but only trained staff should handle little babies.



DISINFECT EVERYTHING

Don't just clean—*disinfect* to kill invisible pathogens.

- Before you disinfect, clean to completely remove all visible debris.
- Use a veterinary-approved disinfectant that kills viruses, bacteria, parasites and fungi.
- Mix disinfectants properly and follow the required **contact time**. Disinfectant is only effective if it stays wet for the time indicated on the product label.
- Only offer items that can be disinfected or thrown away.
- Porous items should be disinfected in the washing machine or tossed.



Biosecurity saves little lives!

Learn more about neonate care at KittenLady.org



KITTEN LADY