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5:04 PM

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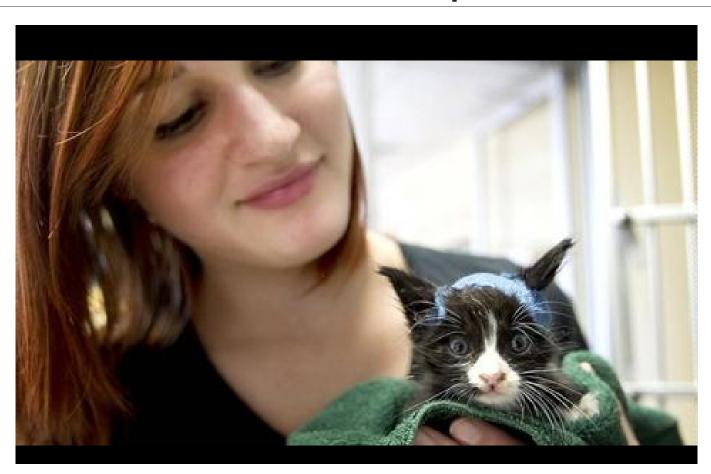




VS. HIGH POINT MONDAY, DEC. 30 AT 7 P.M. CENTER



Austin Pets Alive! seeks volunteers to help with kittens



▲ HIDE CAPTION

Sara Collings holds a kitten in Austin Pets Alive! The nonprofit organization is searching for volunteers to care for foster orphaned kittens, which are often euthanized at local shelters because of resource shortages. Kittens stay in foster care until they're up to 6 months old.



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By Jordan Gass-Pooré

Posted Feb 5, 2013 at 12:01 AM Updated Sep 26, 2018 at 10:06 PM









Anticipating a seasonal spike in cats at the Austin Pets Alive! facility in downtown Austin, the group is looking for volunteers to foster kittens as a part of the no-kill shelter's Bottle Baby Nursery Program.

The program targets orphaned cats younger than 6 weeks old. It was started in 2009 to combat the number of kittens euthanized at local animal shelters because of resource shortages. During breeding season, which starts in March and goes through the end of this month, Austin Pets Alive! sees an overabundance of kittens, shelter officials said.

The City of Austin Animal Center is at capacity, so in an attempt to save cats, the city will give Austin Pets Alive! four hours to rescue bottle-fed kittens slated to be put to sleep, depending on their health, said Gretchen Meyer, a volunteer spokeswoman.

"APA and the Austin animal shelter can't have kittens starving or suffering. That's why they (city shelter workers) put them down," Meyer said.

As of early last month, more than 1,500 kittens were admitted into the Bottle Baby Nursery Program.

Fostering a nursing kitten isn't easy. They must be fed every three to four hours.

William Stroud, a Texas State University student, said he has fostered three kittens from Austin Pets Alive! since last May. Stroud said he prefers to foster kittens, not adopt, because he feels it is less of a financial and time commitment, while still allowing him to give back to the community.

Those who foster an animal from Austin Pets Alive! must provide a safe and clean environment, food, water, toys and transportation for veterinary appointments, officials said. The group requires kittens to stay in

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How to help

Visit <u>www.austinpetsalive.org/foster</u> to learn more about fostering shelter animals and to sign up to help.



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