

Kitten Warmer Saves Lives

This new product provides a safe heat source for kittens

by Mary Pat Boatfield and Donald H. Clifford, D.V.M.

IT HAS BEEN estimated that 25 percent of all kittens die before they are weaned. Some of these deaths are due to malpresentations, congenital defects, infectious agents and other related causes, but a large number can be attributed entirely to poor management.

A primary cause or contributing factor in many of these cases is "chilling." Many breeders and veterinarians recognize this and attempt to solve the problem by using hot water bottles and heating pads. Unfortunately, hot water bottles may lose their warmth during the night and there is always the danger of leakage. Heating pads may produce a cutaneous slough, and since kittens and cats are always tempted to chew on electrical cords, they also present the danger of thermal injury or even electrocution. To minimize these risks, Pet-Therm (P.O. Box YY, Incline Village, Nevada 89450) has developed a simple warmer for kittens, puppies and other small animals.

The inside of the warmer is 6 inches deep, 22 inches long and 14½ inches



The warmer is a valuable asset to any cattery. The survival of one kitten from pedigreed stock would defray the cost of the equipment.



The warmer fits easily inside a conventional stainless steel cage. The temperature control can be placed against the side of the cage and the electric cord extended outside to minimize contact with the animals.

wide. These measurements approximate the area required by an adult female in an extended position. The warmer is deep enough to effectively confine the kittens during their first few weeks of life, but shallow enough to allow the queen to exit and enter easily.

The inside liner and outside wall of the warmer are made of heavy ABS plastic. The space between the liner and outside wall is filled with water. A thermostat, with settings ranging from 75 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit, keeps the water at a constant temperature. The most desirable setting for kittens is from 80 to 85 degrees. A metal heating plate imbedded in the outside wall heats the water. The warmer can be ordered to operate on either 110 or 220 volts. The growth of bacteria or algae in the warm water is prevented by using a chemical solution provided by the manufacturer.

The warmer was designed for use in catteries, but also has features which make it attractive to veterinarians and teaching and research institutions. Its constant temperature

provides the perfect environment for postoperative patients with hypothermia, queens and kittens after a cesarean delivery and patients convalescing from any debilitating disease.

For veterinarians, one of the most attractive features of the warmer is its versatility. Various attachments give it a wide range of potential uses. A wire mesh cage cover can be ordered with a filter cap to prevent the spread of disease and to conserve heat within the cage. The cage cover adds 17 inches to the height of the enclosure and comes with a resting board or platform so the queen can find solace from her brood. For more serious and perinatal problems, an incubator dome and oxygen monitor are also available. 🐾

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