

ADVISORY: PUPPIES/KITTENS 8 to 16 WEEKS OF AGE

Updated 3-16-2022

To protect the health and safety of puppies and kittens, American Humane recommends the use of puppies/kittens that are at least 16 weeks of age at the start of the filming process. **Puppies and kittens 8 to 16 weeks must be pre-approved by American Humane prior to use.** Please note that puppies/kittens under 8 weeks are not legally allowed to work or travel for commercial purposes per the Animal Welfare Act. An exception may be made for filming animals at their home location in a strict documentary style format; prior written approval from American Humane is required.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Pre-Approval Process:** To obtain approval for the use of puppies/kittens 8 to 16 weeks of age submit completed application form below with current vaccination records/health certificates to filmunit@americanhumane.org. **The completed application form and vaccination records must be received at least one business day prior to filming.**
- **Vaccination Records Must Be Complete:** Acceptable vaccination records include veterinary medical/vaccination records, health certificates that include vaccination dates, and breeder supplied vaccinations that are documented on breeder letterhead. When owners self-vaccinate, documentation of vaccination must include the vaccine label, vaccine serial number, vaccine expiration date and the date the vaccine was given. Rabies vaccine must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. All records must include date of birth.
- **Identification:** Each puppy/kitten must be identifiable by name, breed, color, (microchip, or other means).
- **Vaccination Information:** Puppies and kittens that have not received vaccinations at appropriate intervals are at risk for contracting diseases that can cause illness and even death. It takes several weeks for vaccinations to become effective. An incomplete series of vaccinations may make puppies and kittens vulnerable to infection. Vaccination recommendations vary from region to region.
- **Overall health:** Only healthy puppies/kittens shall be used. American Humane strongly recommends that a physical examination be conducted by a veterinarian familiar with the species. Inform American Humane PRIOR to use of any animal with known medical conditions or disabilities, or currently on medications. This information must be disclosed as part of the approval process.
 - No Animal(s) may be used if they are currently under the care of a veterinarian for an infectious disease, receiving medical treatment for a disease, injury, or condition, or showing signs of illness such as nasal discharge, coughing, sneezing, runny eyes, diarrhea, etc.
 - When traveling across state lines, a Health Certificate may be required.
- **Parasites:** Puppies and kittens should be tested to ensure that they are free of parasites which could be passed to other animals. Parasites cause illness and disease.
- **Mixing kittens/puppies:** American Humane recommends against mixing kittens and/or puppies from different litters/sources or working with other animals. If mixing from different litters/sources, prior approval must be received from American Humane.
- **Plan Ahead:** When determining the animal action, consider the age of the puppy/kitten and environmental factors such as weather. Puppies/kittens under 16 weeks old cannot work in snow and subfreezing temperatures, extreme heat, or inclement weather. Puppies and Kittens may need additional provisions to stay warm/cool.
 - Inform American Humane and the animal owner/trainer if any props, make-up, costumes, or special effects (such as rain, snow, dust, fog, etc.) and/or any other products that could be ingested or inhaled.

PRE-APPROVAL APPLICATION for Puppies/Kittens 8 to 16 Weeks of Age

Puppies and kittens from 8 to 16 weeks of age must be pre-approved by American Humane. This completed application form and vaccination records must be emailed to filmunit@americanhumane.org at least one business day prior to filming. Acceptable vaccination records include veterinary medical/vaccination records, health certificates that include vaccination dates, and breeder supplied vaccinations that are documented on breeder letterhead. When owners self-vaccinate, documentation of vaccination must include the vaccine label, vaccine serial number, vaccine expiration date and the date the vaccine was given.

Production Title:

Puppy/Kitten Filming Date(s):

- Are the puppies/kittens currently residing together? YES NO
- Will puppies/kittens be combined from different litters? YES NO *If yes, please provide details, i.e., are they from the same household/breeder?*
- Are any of the animals under the care of a veterinarian for an illness, injury, condition? YES NO
- Are any of the animals taking any medications? YES NO
- Do any of the animals have any chronic conditions or disabilities? YES NO
- If you answered YES to any of the above questions, please provide details:

- Estimated time puppies/kittens will be required: *(call time to wrap)*
- Will the puppies/kittens be working with other animals? YES NO
- Where/How will the puppies/kittens be housed when not working?
- Description of Set: *(Interior or Exterior? If exterior, what are the weather conditions, e.g., sunny, raining, windy, humid, hot/cold, etc. Type of surfaces, e.g., concrete, wood, grass, carpet, etc.)*
- Describe the scene and planned animal action: *(Scene #. What will they be doing? Who will be interacting with them?)*
- Will production be using any props, makeup, costumes, or SFX when filming? Will any products be used that could be ingested or inhaled? If yes, please describe.
- Number of Puppies: Number of Kittens:

Description of Puppy/Kitten <i>(include name, breed, sex, color)</i>	Date of Birth	Age at time of Filming

Name of Animal Provider & Contact Information *(Animal Company):*

Name of Animal Owner & Contact Information:

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: AMERICAN HUMANE Puppy/Kitten Approval

NOT APPROVED (EXPLANATION WHY NOT APPROVED):

APPROVED. Production must ensure the following:

Puppies/kittens lack the physical and psychological maturity of adult dogs, and extra precautions must be taken when using puppies during filming to ensure their health and well-being. Film sets may expose puppies to new external stressors including noise, high levels of activity, and changes to their surroundings. It is important to minimize these disruptions to the puppy/kitten's environment while it is on set.

- Ensure that there is an adequate number of experienced animal handlers for the number of puppies/kittens to be used.
- Ensure that time is built into the schedule to allow for adequate rest and comfort breaks for the puppies/kittens.
- Ensure that there will be NO other animals at the filming location. (This includes pets, stray animals, etc.)
- Ensure the animal holding area and the set is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and, fully inspected for any hazards. Diseases can be passed to puppies and kittens from many sources including other animals as well as areas where infected animals have been.
- Limit handling of puppies and kittens to only what is necessary to achieve the action. The film crew shall be instructed not to touch, pet, or handle the animals.
- Limit takes. American Humane suggests using a stuffy for rehearsals and camera set up. The production must be prepared to begin filming when puppies/kittens are brought to set.
- There should be no loud noises or movement of equipment, etc. when puppies/kittens are present.

ADDITIONAL APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS (if checked):

The approved puppies/kittens must be filmed separate of other animals that they have not been previously exposed to.

The approved puppies/kittens must be filmed only in the areas where they normally reside, use, or habit.

Documentary Style: Puppies/Kittens, and their mothers must be filmed "Documentary Style". **Documentary style requires that there be no interaction between production and the animals or direction from the production.** The animals are to be filmed in their own environment doing what they normally would be doing. Only the current caretakers of the animals may handle/touch the animals and only when they would normally handle or interact with the animals. There must be no "rearrangement," staging, or handling of the animals for filming purposes. The animals are NOT allowed to be moved to any other area for filming and must stay in the areas that they normally reside.

All film crew must use foot baths just prior to entering the area. Surgical shoe covers are to be worn once the foot bath is complete. If someone exits the area, another foot bath and new sterile shoe covers are to be used.

Film crew, especially those with their own dogs/cats or who have been in contact with dogs/cats should wear clean (newly washed) clothing and shoes to prevent any transmission of disease to the puppies/kittens.

Film Equipment must be sanitized prior to entering, kept to an absolute minimum, and kept away from puppies/kittens.

No additional lighting will be allowed.

Other:

Approved By:

Date: