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Sunday Squee with April & Her Family

Sun, 2012-04-22 11:47 — Robin Olson

It's Sunday. Time to kick back and relax. April's kittens are one day away from reaching their 4th week birthday. They're starting to look more like cats and less like hamsters. Their wobbly legs are getting more sturdy and this week many of them have figured out what the litter pan is for.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Sabrina.*

I'm still awkwardly attempting to provide supplemental feedings for the smaller kittens, but they don't eat much and so far only Dahlia, who is one of the biggest kittens, has eaten well for me. The kittens are growing and their mass dwarfs their Mother, April as she rolls over to expose her belly so the kittens can all reach a nipple. Every day I see more of the kittens and less of April. I've got to get these kittens starting on lapping at their milk replacer, but so far it hasn't gone well.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Investigating the cube.*

What did surprise me was seeing one of the kittens dash over to April's plate of food and give it a lick! It was canned food so I was surprised and it wasn't enough to cause the kitten any issues. I thought that maybe that kitten was hungry and sure enough I got her to take a few syringes of formula.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *The girls.*

The kittens are starting to recognize me. At first it was just Cutie who would scramble over to the side of the tub and cry for me to pick her up. Now Dahlia and Sabrina have joined along. They all purr when I hold them. It's a marvelous feeling to hold a tiny kitten and hear her purr and see her relaxed and inquisitive, not fearful at all.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Hello Dahlia.*

Every day I spend a few hours with the family. **I fuss over how clean their bedding is-which I change out every day. I make sure the kittens pee for me after I feed them and they always oblige by lifting their back right leg when I stimulate them to go!** It's a very strange sight. I'm beginning to feel like their co-Mother and April seems to understand that. She "talks" to me and the kittens when she's not in the tub with them. She comes over to be petted and is relaxed if I'm holding or feeding the kittens. **She trusts me and I'm very careful to honor that trust and not do anything to upset the balance.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *I love this photo.*

I'm starting to change up the kitten's environment to give them added enrichment and also to challenge them. Yesterday I added a small cat scratching post and they all surrounded it with complete fascination. Two of them managed to climb it! I'll post a video of that later this week. **Today they enjoyed romping inside a padded cube. I am completely mesmerized by their antics as they clumsily climb in, then fall back out of the cube.** I can tell they're having fun and I know I'm helping them become more confident in the world around them.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Tiny toes.*



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *Keeping an eye on the family.*

I'm very grateful the kittens have survived this long. **I've heard that when they cut their teeth between weeks 4 and 5 they can suddenly die.** Of course I'm completely paranoid about this happening and am very glad I cancelled a trip I was going to take at the end of the week. I need to be home no matter how badly I'd like to take a break and get away. **I don't want to lose a single kitten; not on my watch.**



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *The Three Furmigos.*

The sun is absent today and it's about 30° cooler than it was yesterday. The rains are coming, at last. It's the perfect day to snuggle up with six squirmy, sweet, impossible-to-photograph kittens and savor this special time in their lives.



©2012 Robin A.F. Olson. *OMG don't take my photo again!*

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Comments

Sun, 2012-04-22 14:03 — [Random Felines \(not verified\)](#) ^[6]

love the cute.....we have new ^[7]

love the cute.....we have new babies here too....all black as well. :) This is a very fun stage - enjoy it!!

Sun, 2012-04-22 14:12 — Tereza and Larry (not verified)

Superb ^[8]

They are so adorable and they each look so feminine! True little girls.

Love, L and T

Sun, 2012-04-22 15:39 — Catnonymouse (not verified)

I love your shots of the ^[9]

I love your shots of the little ones, but you're making me really miss fostering the orphaned bottle babies! At 4 weeks, they should be trying out Mama's food. On the 2 (rare) occasions that I actually had a Mama cat instead of just the bottle babies, my Vet had me feed Mama kitten food.

For the babies, especially the small ones, try starting them out on Royal Canin Baby Cat. It's formulated for kittens starting at 4 weeks of age, and they LOVE it. It really helps to plump them up and provide the extra nutrients that they need. Baby Cat comes in dry, as well as canned.

Sun, 2012-04-22 18:11 — [Connie & The Crew \(not verified\)](#) ^[10]

I've been fostering kittens ^[11]

I've been fostering kittens for ten years and I have never heard the issue with cutting teeth. Where did you read / hear that?

Mon, 2012-04-23 13:12 — [Marilia \(not verified\)](#) ^[12]

Wow! A mini big mouth!!!! OMG ^[13]

Wow! A mini big mouth!!!! OMG OMG OMG!!!!

Wed, 2012-04-25 09:22 — [Romeo the Cat \(not verified\)](#) ^[14]

Kittens ^[15]

I love your little kittens, they are so cute!

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