



ADVISORY:

PUPPIES/KITTENS 8 to 16 WEEKS OF AGE

To protect the health and safety of puppies and kittens, American Humane Society 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 Society prior to use.** Please note that puppies/kittens under 8 weeks of age 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 Society is required.

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS:

- **Pre-Approval Process:** To obtain approval for the use of puppies/kittens 8 to 16 weeks of age, submit the 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 48 hours 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 vaccination records that are documented on breeder letterhead. Vaccination records must include the date each vaccine was administered. Records that only include the date the next vaccine is due will not be accepted. When breeders/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 vaccinations must be administered by a licensed veterinarian. All records must include the animal's date of birth and current weight.
- **Identification:** Each puppy/kitten must be identifiable by name, sex, breed, and color. Photographs of each animal may be required for identification purposes.
- **Vaccination Requirements:** Puppies and kittens that have not received vaccinations at appropriate intervals are at risk for contracting diseases that can cause illness or death. Puppies and kittens must have the appropriate number of vaccinations at the appropriate intervals for their age. Animals that are not sufficiently vaccinated for their age may be excluded from filming. Vaccines must be scheduled to allow time for an immune response before filming. All animals are required to have received their initial vaccinations at least 14 days in advance of being on set. Subsequent vaccines should be administered no less than 48 hours prior to being on set to allow for recovery and to monitor for vaccine reactions. Animals may not be vaccinated on the same day they are scheduled to film. All vaccine records will be reviewed by an American Humane Society veterinarian. Vaccination requirements vary by region.
- **Overall Health:** Only healthy puppies and kittens shall be used. American Humane Society strongly recommends that a physical examination be conducted by a veterinarian before filming. Inform American Humane Society prior to using any animal with known medical conditions or disabilities, that has recently undergone a surgical procedure (e.g., spay or neuter), or that is currently on any medication. 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, or vomiting.
 - When traveling across state lines or internationally, a Health Certificate may be required.
- **Parasites:** Parasites cause illness and disease and can be passed to other animals. Puppies and kittens should be examined, tested, and/or treated for internal and external parasites to ensure that they are free of parasites.
- **Mixing Kittens/Puppies:** American Humane Society recommends against mixing litters or using puppies/kittens from different sources. If mixing from different litters or sources, prior approval is required. Prior approval is also required if puppies or kittens will be working with adult animals or with other species.
- **Animal Welfare Considerations:** 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 Society and the animal owner/trainer if any props, makeup, costumes, or special effects (such as rain, snow, dust, fog, etc.) and/or any other products that could be ingested or inhaled will be used.



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 Society. This completed application form and vaccination records must be emailed to filmunit@americanhumane.org at least 48 hours 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 breeders/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 vaccinations must be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

Production Title:

Puppy/Kitten Filming Date(s):

- Are the puppies/kittens currently residing together? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Will puppies/kittens be combined from different litters?
If yes, please provide details (i.e., are they from the same household/breeder)? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are any of the puppies/kittens under the care of a veterinarian for an illness, injury, condition? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Are any of the puppies/kittens taking any medications? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Do any of the puppies/kittens have any chronic conditions or disabilities? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- Have any of the puppies/kitten undergone any surgical procedure, including spay or neuter?
If yes, type and date of surgery: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If you answered YES to any of the above questions, please provide details below:

- 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 special effects when filming? ☐ Yes ☐ No
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 (include name, breed, sex, color)	Date of Birth	Age at Time of Filming

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

Name of Animal Owner & Contact Information:



AMERICAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Puppy/Kitten Approval Form

☐ **NOT APPROVED** (Explanation):

☐ **PARTIAL APPROVAL:**

Approved Animals:

Animals Not Approved:

☐ **APPROVED - Production must ensure the following:**

Puppies/kittens lack the physical and psychological maturity of adult dogs and cats, and extra precautions must be taken when using puppies/kittens during filming to ensure their health and well-being. Film sets may expose puppies/kittens 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 is fully inspected for any hazards. Diseases can be passed to puppies and kittens from many sources, including other animals or 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, handle, or take photos with the animals.
- Limit takes. American Humane Society suggests using a stuffy for rehearsals and camera setup. The production must be prepared to begin filming when puppies/kittens are brought to set.
- There should be no loud noises, movement of equipment, etc. when puppies/kittens are present.
- 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.

ADDITIONAL APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS (if checked):

☐ The approved puppies/kittens must be filmed separately 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 shoe covers are to be used.

☐ 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: