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Kittens left for dead given second chance

Lucie van den Berg | Herald Sun | February 22, 2010 12:00AM

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FRIGHTENED and malnourished, these kittens faced a certain death until they were found - shoved inside a drawer in a farmer's shed near Wallan.

At just 10 days old, they were too young for adoption and unlikely to survive on their own.

Luckily, the six abandoned moggies, now three weeks old, were handed into Ingrid's Haven, a sanctuary for "death row" cats from pounds.

Ingrid Arving hand feeds them, ensuring they get the care their mother would have provided.

RSPCA's Tim Pilgrim said that generally kittens needed to be at least 600g, the weight of a typical six-week-old, to be adopted out.

Kittens too small or young were likely to be put down by pounds.

"Don't let kittens like these be born only to get killed," Ms Arving said.

Desexing was the only way to prevent these deaths.



Rescued cats: These kittens have been getting a second chance at life. Source: Herald Sun

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Ingrid's Haven, off the Hume Highway in Wallan, takes in furballs like these until they find a home.

It can take years to adopt them out, but the shelter has a no-kill policy.

"Most pound animals on death row are only given eight days to find a home and are then euthanased," Ms Arving said.

"The trauma these animals experience when abandoned cannot be underestimated which is why I do everything possible to ensure my cats are given the best possible chance at life," she said.

She re-homes about 300 cats a year, which are desexed, vaccinated, microchipped, wormed and flea treated.