



Litter Box Tips

Many people encounter issues with use of the litter box. Cats may unfortunately use carpet, furniture, and other inappropriate places to eliminate themselves if the litter box is inadequate. The following litter box tips will help to encourage your cat to use the litter box correctly. They may also save your carpet!

It is always recommended that you should have one litter box for each cat you own, plus one more. If you place them all in a row, the cats may perceive them as only one large box. Instead, place a box on each floor, or at opposite ends of the house. This will prevent any issues of one or more cats guarding a box from others.

Keep boxes away from feeding stations, and select quiet, low traffic area. Avoid placement near machines that are associated with sudden noises such as the washing machine or furnace. Be sure that the cat is able to use the box undisturbed by dogs or small children. A baby gate, raised in the door jam, will allow only the cat to easily slip under.

Most cats prefer a large, low sided, uncovered box. They typically do not like change. If your cat is reliably using the box, avoid arbitrary changes in litter type (buying whatever is on sale that day), box location, etc.

You will want to use an unscented litter. Many cats prefer a very fine-grained scoopable litter. Litter depth can be important to some cats. Often a minimum of two inches is preferred. Watch your cat for individual preferences as with most things. You will want to avoid liners, as they often just create more of a mess and rip when cats scratch the litter.

You should scoop the box daily and dump its contents weekly. People commonly do not scoop or empty as often as they should, increasing the chance of the cat eliminating elsewhere. Do not wash the box with anything other than hot water (no detergents, soap, or cleansers).

Clean any accidents with an enzyme odor eliminator. This is a class of products, and the most effective ones can be purchased from your veterinarian. Be sure never to use any cleaner containing ammonia. The scent may cause your cat to mark over top of it because of its similarity to the odor of urine.

Inappropriate elimination in cats can be associated with a host of medical problems. It is imperative that you see your veterinarian if your cat begins to display this behavior. A urinary tract infection is often a cause of this problem and is very easy to treat. It is also never effective to punish your cat for inappropriate elimination, and often will escalate a problem. If you have followed these recommendations for a couple of weeks, and are still having problems, please seek help from a professional Animal Behaviorist and set up an appointment to trouble shoot the specifics of your case. If there is not a medical issue involved, and it is truly a litter box problem, the success rate among behaviorists is very high.

Following these tips will allow your cat to use the litter box properly and avoid accidents. Please remember to consider the fact that it's not always the cat's fault – there may be a simple solution to the problem!

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