

Litter Box Issues

Litter box problems can develop as a result of:

- Medical conditions
- Conflict between pets in a home
- Household stress (moving, new baby, etc.)
- Aversion to the texture or scent of the litter
- Poor litter box placement
- Insufficient number of litter boxes in a home
- Infrequent cleaning of litter boxes

Once litter box problems develop, they can become habitual, so it's important to prevent them before they occur.

To set your cat up for successful litter box habits, make sure they have access to at least 2 uncovered, unlined litter boxes. Rule of thumb is 1 litter box per cat +1.

Litter boxes should be at least 1.5 times the length of the cat for comfortable use.

Place litter boxes in separate (putting two litter boxes in the same room is no better than having one litter box.), open areas of the home. Cats typically prefer placement away from their food but near their people. Avoid placing litter boxes in closets or other tight spaces. Cats need to be able to see their surroundings and to have multiple escape routes in case they need to flee their litter box quickly. Basements should also be avoided unless they are living spaces where people regularly congregate. If you don't want to hang out in the basement, neither does your cat.

Most cats prefer fine-textured unscented, clumping litter.

Just like we don't want to use a dirty bathroom, cats don't want to use a dirty litter box. Their litter boxes need to be scooped at least once daily. Litter should be changed out weekly. After dumping the litter, clean the box with a mild soap that won't leave any harsh smells behind. Then refill with 1-2 inches of fresh litter.