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Litterbox training solutions

Below are some tips, tricks and advice to help your new kitty be successful in their litterbox training, or to help treat any marking behaviors your current cat may be having. Setting the litterbox up in the proper place, with the right kind of litter and box can be important factors in your cat's adjustment to a new home.

1. If you bring home a new cat or relocate, start your cat out in a small area like a laundry room or bathroom with their litter box, food and water (don't place these right next to the litterbox!) Gradually give them more access to the house to ensure they aren't overwhelmed and forget where the bathroom is at.
2. Make sure you have one litter box, plus one extra box for each cat. Your cat should have more than one place to do his/her business. Make sure the litter boxes are placed in different areas of your home.
3. Place litter boxes in separate, socially important areas. Litter boxes should not be hidden. If your cat is marking outside the litter box, it's important to put the boxes in places where they're marking. Litter boxes should be

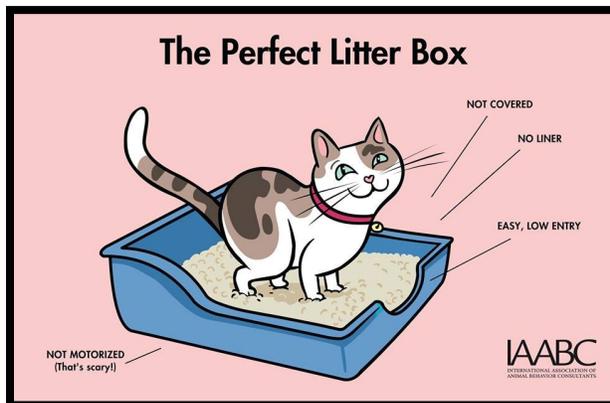


placed in areas where your cat spends the majority of their time and is comfortable. Keeping litter boxes out in the open might not be your ideal scenario, but if it's ideal for your cat, it can solve litter box issues. Other cats may prefer more privacy.

- Cats will often refuse to use the litter box if it isn't kept clean. For some cats this means cleaning out the box after each use, for others once a day is more than enough. If the cat thinks the box is dirty, he may use the area around the box.

If you have multiple cats, do not place the boxes side-by-side, right next to each other.

- Your litter box should have multiple exits. Cats need an escape route; they don't like to feel cornered-in. If you have multiple animals in your home, and they're approached while in the litter box, they don't have a way out. One bad litter box experience can cause a cat to abandon it. If your only litter box is a deep box with one entrance, at least add a shallower one with multiple exits and/or an open pan (no lid) to your cat's repertoire, and eventually try to replace them.
- Cats will often have a preference for the type of litter they like to use, but those preferences can change over time and we don't always understand the reasoning. There are many different types of litter but behaviorists have found that cats prefer to have soft litter, and we often see them choose soft surfaces (like clothing or a bath mat) when they go outside of their litter box.



Changing your litter from clay, pellets, or crystals to a fine-grained scoop able litter may be all you need to stop litter box problems. About ½ to 2 inches of litter is ideal; enough for them to cover and dig, but not so much that their paws sink into it. Cats that are used to eliminating outdoors may

even prefer garden dirt during initial stages of litter box training.

- Oh...and ditch the litter liner! These can be scary, get caught on your cat's nails, and cause uncomfortable static electricity.