

The Ins and Outs of Litter boxes

Not using the litter box is a common complaint by some feline owners. If just starting out with your first kitten or if you have had cats for a while, here are a few guidelines to help prevent elimination problems from developing.

- Have one litter box per cat in the house plus one extra.
- Multiple litter boxes should not all be located in the same place. If more than one level in the home, have boxes on each level.
- Be careful not to place boxes near noisy appliances that may scare the pet while using it.
- Try a covered and uncovered boxes. Some cats like privacy.
- Litter should be as close to sand as possible (the natural choice for most cats). Many clumping litters are very similar.
- Non-deodorant litters are best since some cats are bothered by the deodorant smell.
- Cleanliness is very important to most cats. Scoop out the box daily and completely wash the box weekly with a mild soap and water. *Strong cleaners can deter cats from using the box as well.

If you notice your cat starting to have accidents outside the litter box, then consult with us at the hospital right away. There may be medical issues causing it. If the pet has not been using the litter box for years, consider a behavior consult with us.