



Litter Box Reminders

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Here's a quick checklist with some of the important things to remember when setting up and maintaining your cat's litter box. Remember, it's about what's best for the cat and there are few things on this list you may not have realized could make a difference in the success or failure of the litter box.

Note: After reading through these reminders, do not make abrupt changes to your cat's current litter box set up. We recommend adding litter boxes when making changes, then gradually removing, or making changes to old litter box set ups as necessary. Change is very stressful to cats. The litter box may be causes stress or a litter box avoidance problem; however, we still need to make the necessary changes slowly as to not create more problems.

THE RIGHT LITTER BOX FOR YOUR CAT

- Size should be 1.5 times the length of the cat from tip of the nose to base of tail
- Boxes should be uncovered to prevent a cat from being ambushed while in there
- Use large plastic storage containers as litter boxes for bigger cats
- Kittens need low-sided boxes initially
- Don't use electronic or self-cleaning boxes (too small, you lose the ability to monitor health of elimination, and box can create behavior issues when it automatically goes off)



THE RIGHT LITTER

- Cats generally prefer a soft, sandy texture
- Use unscented litter
- Maintain a 2-3" level
- Don't use plastic liners or litter additives
- Don't make abrupt changes in litter brands or types
- Do not add any fragrant additives to the litter

MOST CATS PREFER A
SOFT-TEXTURED LITTER





NUMBER AND LOCATION OF LITTER BOXES

- You should have the same number of boxes as cats plus an extra box for good measure
- In a multicat household, locate a box in each cat's preferred area
- Don't line litter boxes up in one room
- Boxes should be out in the open and not wedged in corners or closets
- Place box in an area opposite room entrance to give cat maximum visual vantage
- Multi-level homes need boxes on each floor
- Don't place litter boxes near food or water bowls

LITTER BOX MAINTENANCE

- Scoop litter at least twice a day
- With scoopable litter, thoroughly wash box at least once a month
- With non-clumping litter, thoroughly wash box at least every 4-5 days
- Replace worn or scratched boxes as often as needed
- As you scoop, top off litter to maintain consistent levels of litter in the box
- Do not use plug-in air fresheners or fragrance sprays near the litter box

SCOOP AT LEAST TWICE DAILY



MONITORING OF LITTER BOX

- Twice-daily scooping allows you to monitor what is or isn't happening in the box (possible health issues)
- Watch for changes in appearance, odor and amount of cat's urine clumps and fecal deposits
- Changes in litter box habits or elimination deposits need to be brought to the attention of your veterinarian
- Don't use electronic or self-cleaning boxes because you lose the ability to monitor
- Never punish for elimination outside of the box



ADJUSTMENTS TO LITTER BOX SET-UP

- Make needed adjustments to box set-up as your cat ages or mobility decreases
- In a multicat home, make sure each cat feels safe when in the litter box
- Customize the litter box set-up to fit the needs and preferences of each cat
- Pay attention to what your cat may be communicating about the litter box set-up
- If there are dogs in the house you may need pet gates to prevent them from enter the litter box rooms so the cat feels safe enter the litter box

DON'T TAKE SHORTCUTS WHEN IT COMES TO YOUR CAT'S LITTER BOX

- Don't neglect litter box maintenance because a dirty box is stressful to a cat
- Don't resort to electronic or self-cleaning boxes as a way out of daily scooping
- Don't hide litter boxes in areas so remote that you'll forget to maintain them
- Even if using scoopable litter, you still have to completely empty and wash the box regularly
- Cats who are allowed outdoors still need indoor litter boxes
- Don't toilet-train your cat

IS YOUR LITTER BOX SET-UP TRULY CAT-FRIENDLY?

