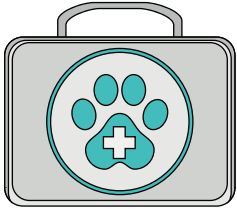


SOLVING LITTER BOX ISSUES

Cats may avoid the litter box for many reasons. What is important to know is that with patience and proper training, you can retrain your cat to use the litter box again.

What Causes Litter Box Issues?

Medical Concerns

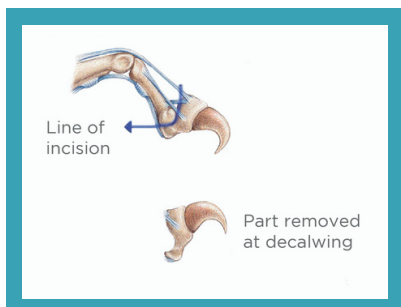


There are many medical concerns that could be causing your cat's litter box issues. You must take your cat to a veterinarian to determine the exact cause. Your full service veterinarian can change your animal's diet, provide medications, or simply give advice to help correct the unwanted behaviors.

Cat's Personal Preference

Cats can be pretty particular about their litter boxes. If your cat has recently stopped using the litter box and you have ruled out any medical issues, we suggest you try some of the following easy adjustments to your routine.

- **Unclean Litter Box** - There are times cats prefer to only use a freshly cleaned litter box. Consider cleaning your litter boxes daily.
- **Amount of Litter Boxes** - The rule of thumb is to always have one more litter box than you do cats. For example, if you have two cats you should have a minimum of three litter boxes.
- **Location of Litter Boxes** - Ensure your cat has privacy. Sometimes, your cat will stop using the litter box if they are confronted by a family dog, another cat, or a human. You also want to ensure the litter box is accessible. If you have multiple levels to your home, ensure there is a litter box on every level of the home.
- **Type of Litter Box** - A standard litter box may not do the job. Try using litter boxes that are different sizes, are high sided, self cleaning, covered or not covered. It may take a combination of different litter boxes to correct the unwanted behavior.



- **My Cat is Declawed** - Declawing can cause significant pain in cats, especially as they get older. If your cat is declawed, we suggest you speak with your veterinarian to get a paw evaluation completed to see how you can help eliminate your cat's pain.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I take my cat to the veterinary clinic?

If your cat starts eliminating outside the litter box, your first step should be the vet clinic to ensure no medical cause exists.

Once you've eliminated any medical cause, clean any soiled areas with effective odor remover. These products can be purchased at your pet supply store or through your veterinarian. Avoid using ammonia based cleaners.

What type of litter or litter box should I use?

To determine which litter type your cat prefers, offer two or three different options side-by-side to see which one is most used. Then, place the preferred litter in different types of litter boxes to see which box your cat prefers.

Should I confine my cat?

It may be best to confine your cat to a small area of your home where he has not inappropriately urinated. Confine with his preferred litter, litter box (see above), and other essentials. Preventing access to the areas your cat prefers to urinate in may be the easiest solution: keep doors shut, keep laundry baskets and clothing picked up, etc.

What if I see my cat urinating inappropriately?

If you catch your cat in the act, interrupt him with a squirt from a water bottle, loud clap, or noise device. Never yell, physically punish, or rub his nose in it - your cat will not associate the punishment with the inappropriate urination.

Does floor texture matter?

If your cat is using a particular surface, such as tile or carpet, you might make him a litter box that simulates the preferred surface. Place a carpet square or tile in the bottom of the box and very gradually add litter until your cat is comfortable using the litter box.



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