



Litter boxes

What kind of litter box should I use?

The box should be large enough to fit an adult cat comfortably. Under-the-bed storage boxes work well (although you won't want to keep it under the bed). Be aware that many of the litter boxes available at pet and department stores are too small for the average cat to use comfortably.

Avoid boxes with covers at all costs. Cats do not like them. A study was done at the Atlantic Veterinary College with cats to determine which kind of litter box they would prefer and overwhelmingly, 99% of cats always picked the uncovered litter box.

What is the best kind of litter to use?

Almost all cats prefer clumping litter over any other type. Another advantage of clumping litter is that it is easy to keep clean. It is best to avoid scented litters.

Where should I keep the litter box?

Place the litter box in a quiet location at least ten feet away from food and water bowls. Don't block access to the litter box. Put it in an open location, not hidden in a closet or under stairs. Cats like peace and quiet when they use the litter box, but they do NOT like to hide.

Try to place the box as close as possible to where the cat spends most of her time sleeping or grooming. Consider placing an additional box in a different location, especially if you have more than one cat or more than one floor in your home.

How do I care for the litter box?

Scoop, scoop, scoop!

Try to scoop the litter box 2 – 3 times a day. If you use clumping litter properly, you will not need to empty out the entire box for a period of weeks, as it will actually stay very clean. You will need to add a little fresh litter every few days.

When you do empty out the entire box to start over, it is usually only necessary to rinse the box with warm water and a little detergent. There is no need to use harsh cleaners or disinfectants. If you decide to use non-clumping or clay litter, the entire box must be emptied very frequently -- every 3-4 days -- to keep it clean enough for the cat to want to use it.

How do I introduce a kitten to the litter box?

It's usually not necessary to teach kittens to use a litter box since it is an instinctive behaviour.

However, it is necessary to show kittens where the box is located. To encourage kittens to use the litter, gently place the kitten in the box soon after each meal. If the kitten has an "accident" outside the box, place the mess in the box to help her make the desired association.

Punishment is never necessary as kittens learn quickly.



Other tips

- Provide one litter box for every cat in your household.
- Avoid disturbing your cat while she is using the box.
- Don't use scented litter.
- There should be at least two - three inches of litter covering the bottom of the pan; the more the better.
- The best kind of box is a large under-the-bed storage container without the top. Cats love it because it is big and open.