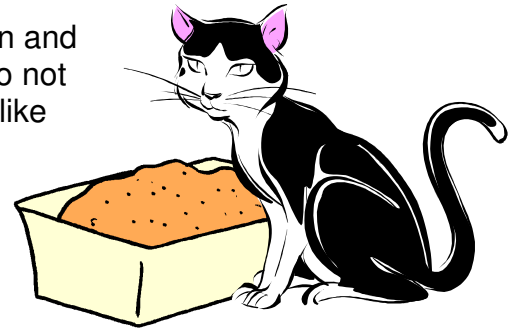


## LITTER TRAINING

Most kittens require little or no training to use a litter box. It is their nature to be clean and to bury their urine and feces. In spite of this, failure to use the litter box is the most common behavioral problem we see in cats and the number one reason why cats end up in shelters.

There are several things that you can do to prevent this from becoming a problem in your home.

1. Confine your kitten to a small room or large dog crate with a litter box anytime that you are not able to supervise it. This will accomplish 2 things; it will keep the kitten close to its litter and increase the chance of them using it. It will also keep this VERY curious young friend safe.
2. Observe your kitten: it is “normal” for them to scratch in and around the litter to bury their urine and feces. If they do not scratch and bury in the litter, switch litters. Some cats like scented, some like unscented, clay, sand, recycled paper etc. Some like private covered boxes, some prefer open. Once you have found a litter type and box type that your cat likes – TRY TO STICK TO IT, any change may cause your cat to stop using the litter.
3. Provide more than one place to go. In nature, cats “spread their scent around”, rarely using the same place twice. As domesticated as they are we are still asking them to do something unnatural when we ask them to go in the same place all the time. Most experts recommend at least one more box than you have cats.
4. Along the same line as #3, KEEP THE LITTER CLEAN, the more urine, feces and odor in the litter, the less likely they will be to use it again. Remove feces and urine if possible every day.
5. If your cat is not using the litter box CALL US ASAP. Failure to use the litter is often the sign of a problem and the sooner we address the problem the less likely it is to become a habit.



When your kitten uses the box 100% of the time and is covering their urine and feces they can EARN supervised freedom. We recommend expanding their environment gradually or carry them to where you are going to be, it is recommended that you periodically carry them back and place them in the litter (every 30 minutes or so to start). Any time you see your kitten in the litter or place them in the litter you should praise them. If you catch your cat going outside the litter; scream, yell, stomp your feet, anything to startle them and interrupt the behavior and pick them up. Praise them while carrying them to the litter! (Why praise??!! Because they stopped being bad the second you interrupted them AND you do not want to associate anything bad with the trip to the litter box!) If you do not catch them IN THE ACT of going outside the box DO NOT DISCIPLINE THEM they will not understand, just go back to confining them. Remember, they must EARN their freedom.

Accidents need to be cleaned up with an enzymatic cleaner, scented “cover-up” cleaners will not REMOVE the odor.