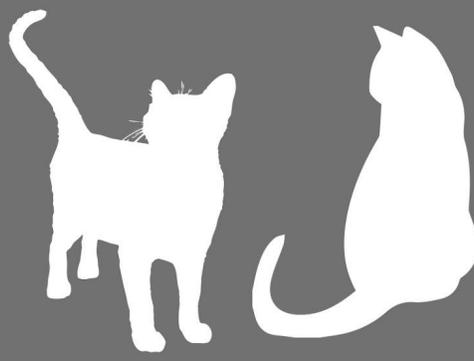


CATS



LITTER BOXES

There are several important factors when choosing the correct litterbox set up for your cat.

- How many? The golden rule is one litter box per cat plus one. In order for it to count as two separate litter boxes they must be in separate parts of the house.
- What type? In general, a cat's favorite type is a regular litter pan with clumping, non scented litter. You will want to make sure the litter box is 1.5 times longer than their body length. Most cats do not like covered litter boxes or self cleaning litter boxes because they can feel trapped or scared.
- How often do you clean? Experts recommend you scoop the litter boxes daily. Additionally you will want to completely take out all the litter and wash the litter box with a mild dishwashing liquid weekly.
- Where to Place? You will want to place the litter boxes throughout the house in quiet places where they are not likely to be disturbed by noises, other pets, or people.

Troubleshooting

- Rule out Medical Issues- If your cat has always used the litter box and has recently stopped, taking your cat to the veterinarian should be your first step. There are many conditions that would cause a cat to stop using the litter box and they won't resolve without the proper treatment from a veterinarian.
- Try a different litter type- Try using a couple different litter types until you find one your cat likes to use. You can find loads of different varieties at your local pet store
- Try a different location-Notice your cat going to the bathroom in one specific location? Try putting a litter box there or nearby. If the cat isn't using the litter box in one spot try a different part of the house and show them where it is to see if they start.
- Change depth of the litter- Many cats prefer several inches of litter in the pan but each cat has their own preference. Experiment and see what your cat prefers.

If you are struggling with litter box issues, check out *The Fastidious Feline* by Patrica McConnell. This short booklet goes into more depth to help you experiment, troubleshoot and ultimately find a solution that works for you and your cat.