

CATS AND KITTENS: Litter Box Training



Your brand new kitten may need some help when it comes to litter box training. Here are some tips to set her up for success.

SELECTION AND PLACEMENT

Selecting the right litter box is very important. Kittens are tiny with short little legs so they'll need a litter box they can easily climb in and out of. But the litter box must also be large enough for your kitten to eliminate comfortably. As your kitten becomes an adult, the smaller litter box should be replaced with a larger one. Many cats also prefer quiet, uncovered litter boxes rather than mechanical or covered boxes.

Placement of the litter box must also be considered. Confining the kitten to a small room or area of your home will help greatly. Young cats may have a harder time finding the litter box if you have a large home, so placing it in a convenient area will make finding it easy.

LITTER

The type of litter many cats prefer is unscented, soft, scoopable litter as opposed to heavily scented clay litter that can feel rough on their feet.

LEARNING THE ROPES

Once you have the litter box set up, show your kitten where it is. He might be too inexperienced to find it on his own at first. It may be helpful to deliver your kitten to his litter box after nap times or meals so he remembers where to go. Normally it is ideal to scoop a litter box at least twice a day, but your kitten may learn faster by keeping a small amount of waste in his litter box at first. Finally, be careful not to punish your kitten if he has accidents. Punishing him may only cause him to avoid the litter box in the future.

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