



**Good Friends
Animal
Hospital**

**D. Isabel Cole, DVM
Ellen Kuchenbrod, DVM**

Outsmart your feline friends with Booby Traps

Cats are very clever creatures that successfully resist our efforts to keep them off the counter tops, out of the garbage cans and from climbing the curtains. Spraying them with water works only when the owner is present. Like mischievous children, cat owners need to set booby traps to surprise and annoy their feline friends and keep the kitties away from restricted areas.

Shaker cans make great booby traps for many areas. To make a shaker can, put a few pennies in an empty soda can and tape it shut. For cats that jump on counter tops make a false edge by weighing down a piece of cardboard with shaker cans. When the cat jumps on the false edge the cans will come crashing down around him.

For cats that get into garbage cans and laundry baskets or steal food off of table tops tie a string to a paper towel with a spot of tuna oil on it and place it in the forbidden basket. Tie the other end of the string to a shaker can. Place this shaker can on a shelf or counter with another shaker can about a foot away. Place a sheet of cardboard on top of these 2 cans. This makes a shelf where you can put even more shaker cans. When the cat steals the paper towel with the enticing aroma on it, he pulls the string and causes an avalanche of cans! The noise and chaos of the falling cans should keep him away from the basket in the future.

For cats that claw at doorways and furniture, attach double-sided tape, inflated balloons, aluminum foil or netting to the off-limits area.

Room deodorizers in pine and citrus scents are often enough to keep cats away.

For cats that use the soil around houseplants instead of their litter box cover the soil with pinecones or river rocks. This also looks nice and decorative!

Do keep your cat's temperament in mind when designing your booby traps. They should never injure or traumatize your cat. Also keep in mind the safety of other pets and children that might have access to the booby traps. More than once I've been the one to step on or be startled by these traps, much to my cat's amusement.