



**Good Friends
Animal
Hospital**

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General Recommendations For Litter Box Problems

- 1) Have your cat checked by a veterinarian. Litter box avoidance may be due to a medical problem. **If your cat is straining to urinate but not able to eliminate, seek medical attention immediately. This is an emergency.**
- 2) Clean all soiled areas with an odor eliminator sold specifically for animal odors. These products will neutralize the odor, not just cover it up. Follow label instructions of any product you choose. Do not use ammonia or ammonia based products to clean soiled areas.
- 3) Placing room deodorizers in the vicinity of the soiled area may discourage some cats from using an area to eliminate. Physical barriers and “booby traps” (upside down plastic carpet runners, two-sided tape, and stacks of empty aluminum cans) will discourage cats from re-soiling an area. Use these with caution as humans, especially children, and other pets, can be caught in these traps as well.
- 4) Provide one more litter box than you have cats. Place boxes in a variety of locations and offer a variety of types (open, covered, deep, shallow, big, and small).
- 5) Litter should be scooped daily and most litters should be dumped totally every other day. Boxes should be washed weekly with neutral or mild smelling soaps (no ammonia). If your old box is permeated with scent then replace it with a new one. It is usually better to use less litter and change it more frequently than have the litter several inches deep and only change it weekly.
- 6) Offer a variety of litter types. If the cat is using soft areas to eliminate, try soft litters: sand, shredded newspaper, toweling, sawdust, or clumping litter. If your cat is using hard surfaces, try a shallow baking sheet or empty litter box with just a little litter in one corner. Be creative and persistent. Watch to see what your cat seems to prefer.
- 7) If the problem persists seek professional help from a pet behavior consultant.