



Is Your Cat Missing the Mark?

It can be confusing and frustrating if a cat starts to “go” outside of the litter box. Litter box issues are caused by a variety or combination of several factors. It is important to know that some litter box issues may indicate an underlying health problem, so seek advice from a vet if your cat is struggling using the litter box. Once health issues are ruled out, there are several simple and logical steps that may help resolve this problem.



Decisions, Decisions...

Cats are famous for being picky, so why wouldn't they be picky about where they do their private business? Cats may simply not like a litter box for its size or shape. Some types of litters are more attractive to some cats. Find the best combination and stick with it.

Rule of thumb:

Add ONE to the number of cats in the house. The result is the minimum number of litter boxes you should have. So, one cat = two litter boxes. This way, if a cat is feeling uncomfortable about where one litter box is located, they have an alternative.

Location, Location, Location...

Would you rather relieve yourself in a private and quiet location, or in the middle of Grand Central Station? If a litter box is placed in an area of the house with a lot of noise or foot traffic, the chaos and interruptions might cause a cat to take their business elsewhere. If you only have one litter box, you might not like where elsewhere is! It's also important to keep a separation between the litter box area and where your cat eats. No one wants to have dinner in the bathroom.

This Must Be the Place...

Cats that aren't fixed produce hormones that make them territorial. Even though it's your house, it is also their territory and they will mark it by spraying. Please note, it is not just males – female cats can spray, too. If your cat is spraying or marking, having him or her fixed will likely correct this behavior, and has many other benefits as well.

Urination outside the litter box is not always 'spraying.' Just as the litter box marks the desired spot for your cat to eliminate, objects on the floor (like clothing) may attract a cat for the same purpose. These vertical objects rise above the landscape of your floor, acting as a beacon for a potential new bathroom. Be sure to put laundry in a hamper, or a place the cat is not allowed and don't leave items strewn about the floor.

Cleanliness is Next to Catliness

Cats don't require potty training. Their wild ancestors learned to bury their waste to hide the smell as a survival tactic. Our cats retain much of their prehistoric instinct and will likely not use a stinky litter box. Scoop the litter daily and replace it regularly.

