



Blue Springs

Animal Hospital & Pet Resort

"It's All About Caring"



Litter Box Training

From a young age, cats have a natural instinct to void in loose sand or soil. This instinct makes litter training a cat simple in most cases.

Purchase a commercially available litter box and a litter scoop. Use the scoop to clean out the solid waste daily. **If you have more than one cat, provide one litter box per cat plus one extra litter box in separate locations. Example: with 2 cats have 3 litter boxes.** Place the box on the floor or on a solid accessible surface in a quiet area of the house.

Choose a good quality litter, such as "Tidy Cat" or "Fresh Step". The clumping type litter is convenient for you to scoop out and is a good choice if your cat likes it. **Choose one type and brand of litter that your cat likes and stick with it.** Changing the litter type once the cat is accustomed to it could cause the cat to avoid the box.

A new cat should be confined to a small area with the litter box, food, and water for the first few days until they are using the box consistently. They can then be allowed gradual, supervised freedom. If the cat starts to scratch the ground or void in another area, gently return it to the area of the litter box to remind it where the box is located. Never punish the cat and then place it in or near the litter box, or it may associate punishment with the box and avoid it altogether.

The litter box must be kept fastidiously clean to encourage continued use. Cats are very clean animals and will avoid foul smelling, damp places. If the box is dirty when they try to use it, many cats will stop using the box, sometimes permanently. Therefore, you need to scoop out all the solid or wet litter every day. The box should be completely emptied, washed, and refilled weekly for regular clay litters or monthly for clumping litters. This method will conserve litter, keep odors to a minimum, and encourage continued litter box use by your cat.

If you have questions or encounter problems with litter training, please call the hospital and we will be happy to assist you.

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